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650
3-7



THE
AMERICAN JOURNAL
OF THE
MEDICAL SCIENCES.

VOL. XXIV.

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No. XLVII.—MAY, 1839.

1

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TO READERS AND CORRESPONDENTS.

The interesting "Gleanings" of Prof. MERR, reached us just as this sheet was preparing for the press. They shall have a place in our next No.

We have been unable, from want of space, to notice several interesting works to which we are desirous of calling attention; among these we may specify Churchill on the diseases of females, Wardrop on the diseases of the heart, Dr. DUNNELL's annual report of the interments in the city and county of New York, for the year 1838, and Pancoast's edition of WISTAR's Anatomy. Each of these shall receive early attention. We have also several other works on our table, which reached us too late for notice for the present No.

The following works have been received:—

A Treatise on the Diseases of the Chest, and on Mediate Auscultation. By R. T. H. LAENNEC, M. D. Translated from the third French edition with copious notes, a sketch of the author's life, and an extensive Bibliography of the different diseases. By JOHN FORBES, M. D. F. R. S. &c. To which are added the notes of Professor ANDRAL, contained in the fourth and latest French edition, translated and accompanied with Observations on Cerebral Auscultation by JOHN D. FISHER, M. D., Fellow of the Massachusetts Medical Society, with plates, New York: 1838. (From Dr. Fisher.)

A system of Anatomy for the use of Students of Medicine. By CASPAR WISTAR, M. D., late Professor of Anatomy in the University of Pennsylvania. With notes and additions, by Wm. HORNER, M. D. Professor of Anatomy in the University of Pennsylvania. Seventh edition, entirely remodelled and illustrated by numerous engravings. By J. PANCOAST, M. D., Lecturer on Anatomy and Surgery, and one of the surgeons of the Philadelphia Hospital, &c. 2 vols. 8vo: 1839. (From Dr. Pancoast.)

An Inquiry into the Influence of Physical causes upon the Moral Faculty. Delivered before a meeting of the American Philosophical Society, February 27, 1786. By BENJAMIN RUSH. With an introductory notice by GEORGE COMBE, Esq., of Edinburgh. Philadelphia: 1839. (From G. Combe, Esq.)

The Nature and Treatment of the Diseases of the Heart; with some views on the Physiology of the circulation. By JAMES WARDROP, M. D., Surgeon to his late Majesty, &c. London: 1837. (From the author.)

Outlines of the Principal Diseases of Females. Chiefly for the use of Students. By FLEETWOOD CHURCHILL, M. D., Licentiate of the King and Queen's College of Physicians in Ireland, Physician to the Western Lying-in Hospital, &c. &c. Dublin: 1838. (From the author.)

Practical Surgery: with one hundred and thirty engravings on wood. By ROBERT LISTON, surgeon. With notes and additional illustrations, by GEORGE W. NORRIS, M. D., one of the surgeons to the Pennsylvania Hospital. Philadelphia: 1838. (From Dr. Norris.)

Outlines of the Institutes of Medicine: founded on the Philosophy of the human economy, in health and disease. In three parts. Should we build facts upon facts until our hill reached the heavens, they would tumble to pieces, unless they were cemented by principles.—Rush. By JOSEPH A. GALLUP, M. D. Author of Sketches of Epidemic Diseases of Vermont, late Professor of Theory and Practice in the Vermont Academy of Medicine, &c. &c. Boston: 1839. 2 vols. 8vo. (From the Author.)

Catalogue of the Officers and Students of the Medical Institute of the city of Louisville: January, 1839. (From Professor C. W. Short.)

Introductory Lecture delivered by H. WILLIS BAXTER, M. D., Professor of Anatomy and Physiology in the University of Maryland, November 2, 1837, Baltimore, 1839. (From the author.)

Annual Announcement of the Medical Department of Transylvania University; containing the circular for the present year, the catalogue of pupils of session 1838-9, and the list of graduates at the late commencement. Lexington: 1839. (From Professor T. D. Mitchell.)

On the methods of acquiring knowledge. An introductory Lecture to the course of the Institutes of Medicine, for the session 1838-9; delivered in the University of Pennsylvania, November 6, 1838. By SAMUEL JACKSON, M. D. Philadelphia, 1838. (From the author.)

Transactions of the Medical Society of the State of New York. Albany: 1839. (From the society.)

A Lecture on Loxarthrus or Club Foot. By THOMAS D. MUTTER, M. D., Lecturer on Surgery, Fellow of the College of Physicians, &c. Philadelphia, 1839. (From the Author.)

Annual Report of the Interments in the city and county of New York, for the year 1838, with accompanying remarks. Presented by HENRY G. DURNEL, City Inspector. New York, 1839. (From the author.)

Monograph of the ligneous plants indigenous to Ohio. By JOHN L. RIDDELL, M. D., Professor of Chemistry and Pharmacy in the Medical College of Louisiana. (From the author.)

Opinion of the Court of Appeals of Maryland, in the case of the University of Maryland, delivered by BUCHANAN, Chief Justice. Baltimore, 1839.

The Annual Address to the candidates for degrees and licenses in the Medical Institution of Yale College, February 26th, 1839. By THOMAS MINER, M. D., Member of the Board of Examination, and late President of the Connecticut Medical Society. Published at the request of the Class. New Haven, 1839. (From the author.)

An Address delivered to the Students of the Louisville Medical Institute in the presence of the citizens of the place, at the commencement of the second session of the Institute, November 13th, 1838. By Joshua B. Flint, M. D., Professor of Surgery, Louisville, 1838. (From the Author.)

Archives Générales de Médecine, September, October, November and December, 1838. (In exchange.)

Revue Médicale Française et étrangère, August, September, October, November, December, 1838. (In exchange.)

Journal de Médecine et de Chirurgie Pratiques, September, October, November, December, 1838. (In exchange.)

Bulletin Général Thérapeutique Médicale et Chirurgicale, September, October, November and December, 1838. (In exchange.)

Gazette Médicale de Paris, August, September, October, November and December, 1838. (In exchange.)

Journal des Connaissances Medico-Chirurgicales, September, October, November and December, 1838. (In exchange.)

Journal des Connaissances Médicales, September, October, November and December, 1838. (In exchange.)

La Lancette Française, August, September, October, November and December, 1838. (In exchange.)

Journal de Pharmacie, September, October, November and December, 1838. (In exchange.)

Zeitschrift für die gesammte Medicin mit besonderer Rücksicht auf Hospitalpraxis und ausländische Literatur. Nov. 1838. (In exchange.)

The London Medical Gazette, November and December, 1838, and January, 1839. (In exchange.)

The British and Foreign Medical Review or Quarterly Journal of Practical Medicine and Surgery, January, 1839. (In exchange.)

Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal for January, 1839. (In exchange.)

The Medico-Chirurgical Review, for January, 1839. (In exchange.)

The Medical Examiner for February, March and April, 1839. (In exchange.)

The American Medical Library and Intelligencer, for February, March and April, 1839. (In exchange.)

The Boston Medical and Surgical Journal for February, March and April, 1839. (In exchange.)

The Southern Medical and Surgical Journal, February, March and April, 1839. (In exchange.)

The Select Medical Library and Eclectic Journal of Medicine, February, March and April, 1839. (In exchange.)

The Transylvania Journal of Medicine and the Associate Sciences, for April, May and June, 1838. (In exchange.)

The Western Journal of the Medical and Physical Sciences for May, June and July, 1838. (In exchange.)

CONTENTS.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

MEMOIRS AND CASES.

ART.	PAGE
I. Account of the Asylum for the Relief of persons deprived of the use of their Reason, near Frankford, Pennsylvania, with the Statistics of the Institution from its foundation to the 31st 12th month, 1838. By Charles Evans, M. D., Attending Physician to the Asylum. - -	13
II. Observations on the Nature and Treatment of Telangiectasis, or that morbid state of the Blood-vessels which gives rise to Nævus and Aneurism from Anastomosis. By John Watson, M. D. (Read before the New York Medical and Surgical Society, March 2d, 1839.) - -	24
III. Chronic Cerebral Affection: long continued, intense headache: double consciousness: extraordinary memory of events: inefficacy of treatment: diagnosis doubtful. By Elisha Bartlett, M. D., Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic, and Pathological Anatomy in Dartmouth College. -	42
IV. Case of Cancerous Ulceration of the Oesophagus opening into the Trachea. By Morrill Wyman, M. D., Cambridge, Mass. - -	58
V. On the Remedial Powers of the Persequintrate of Iron. By T. C. Adam, M. D., of Lenawee county, Michigan. - -	61
VI. Remarkable Case of Partial Sweating. By Samuel S. Marcy, M. D., of Cold Spring, N. J. - -	66
VII. Case of Epilepsy. By Charles A. Porter, M. D., of New York. -	67
VIII. Bite of a Spider on the Glans Penis, followed by violent symptoms—recovery. By Isaac Hulse, M. D., U. S. N. Fleet Surgeon, W. I. Squadron. - -	69
IX. A Brief Account of Scarlatina, as it prevailed in the Orphan House, Charleston, South Carolina, during the months of June and July, 1838. By George Logan, M. D., Physician to the Institution. - -	71

MONOGRAPH.

X. On Pseudomembranous Inflammation of the Throat. By E. Geddings, M. D., Professor of Pathological Anatomy and Medical Jurisprudence in the University of the State of South Carolina.	
Synonymes—Pseudo-membranous inflammation of the throat. Angina Pseudo-membranacea. Angina tonsillaris membranacea. Angina Plastica. Angina Diphtheritica, (Bretonneau.) Angine Couenneuse, (Guer-sent.) Häufige Bräune. Germ. - - -	73

Bibliography.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	89
---------------	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

BIOGRAPHY.

XI. A Memoir on the Life and Character of Philip Syng Physick, M. D. By J. Randolph, M. D.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	93
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

REVIEWS.

XII. Lectures on the Morbid Anatomy of the Serous and Mucous Membranes. In two volumes. Vol. i. By Thomas Hodgkin, M. D., London: 1836.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	129
XIII. First Principles of Medicine. By Archibald Billing, M. D., &c. &c. Third Edition, considerably Enlarged and Improved. 8vo. pp. 282. London: 1838.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	145

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

XIV. The künstliche Pupillenabildung in der Sclerotica; Nebst einem anhang über die Verpflanzung der hornhaut, Keratoplastik. Nach eigenen Versuchen. Von Dr. B. Stilling, Gehülfsarzt am Landkrankenhaus zu Marburg. Marburg, 1833, 8vo. pp. 144. On the Formation of an Artificial Pupil in the Sclerotica, with an Appendix on the Transplanting of the Cornea. By Dr. B. Stilling, &c.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	163
XV. Appréciation de la Doctrine Phrénologique ou des localisations des Facultés Intellectuelles et morales, au Moyen de l'Anatomie Comparée. Par M. Jules Lafargue, ancien interne des hôpitaux. An appreciation of the Phrenological doctrine, or the localisation of the intellectual and moral faculties, by means of comparative anatomy. By M. J. Lafargue.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	168
XVI. Die Gefässdurchschlingung. Eine neue methode, Blutungen aus grösseren Gefässen zu Stillen. Von Dr. B. Stilling, prakt. arzt zu Cassel. 8vo. pp. 152, Marburg, 1835. Die natürlichen Prozesse bei der Heilung durchschlungener Blutgefässe mit besonderer Rücksicht auf den Thrombus. Aus einer grossen reihe Von Versuchen an Thieren abgeleitet. Von Dr. B. Stilling, &c. 8vo. pp. 304, Eisenach, 1834. Geschichte einer amputation des Oberschenkels, wobei die durchschlingung der art. fem., art. prof. fem. und der vena fem. in anwendung gezogen wurde. Von Dr. B. Stilling, &c. 8vo. pp. 32, Hanover, 1837.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	172
XVII. Recherches Médico-physiologiques sur L'Electricité Animale: Sui-vies d'observations et de considerations pratiques sur le procédé médical de la neutralisation électrique directe, notamment appliquée au traitement de l'Ophthalmie, de l'Erysipèle de la Face, de la Céphalalgie, de la Migraine, des Dérangemens de la menstruation, des Affections rhumatismales, de quelques Affections névropathiques, &c. Par J. F. Cou-dret, M. D. P. &c., Paris, 1837. pp. 496. pl. III.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	176
XVIII. A Treatise on the Diseases of the Chest, and on Mediate Auscultation. By R. T. H. Laennec, M. D., Regius Professor of Medicine in the College of France, &c. &c., translated from the third French edition, with copious notes, a sketch of the author's life, and an extensive Bibliography of the different diseases. By John Forbes, M. D. F. R. S. &c. &c. To which are added the notes of Professor Andral, contained in the fourth and latest French edition, translated and accompanied	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

CONTENTS.

ix
PAGE

with observations on cerebral Auscultation. By John D. Fisher, M. D. Fellow of the Massachusetts Medical Society. With plates. New York, Samuel S. & Wm. Wood, 1838, pp. 784, Pl. II. -	178
XIX.—A Lecture on Loxarthus or Club-foot. By Thomas D. Mutter, M. D., Lecturer on Surgery; Fellow of the College of Physicians, &c. Philadelphia, 1839. pp. 104. 8vo.-	178
XX. Practical Surgery; with one hundred and thirty Engravings on Wood. By Robert Liston, Surgeon. With notes and additional illustrations, by George W. Norris, M. D., one of the Surgeons to the Pennsylvania Hospital. Philadelphia, James Crissy, 1838, pp. 374, 8vo. -	179
XXI. Tenth Annual Report of the Inspectors of the Eastern Penitentiary of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, 1839, pp. 28, 8vo. -	179
XXII. An Introductory Lecture to a Course of Lectures on the Theory and Practice of Medicine, in the University of Pennsylvania: Delivered at the opening of the Session of 1838-39. By N. Chapman, M. D. Prof. &c., Philad. 1838, pp. 19. 8vo. -	184

SUMMARY

OF THE

IMPROVEMENTS AND DISCOVERIES IN THE MEDICAL SCIENCES.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

GENERAL ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY.

PAGE	PAGE
1. Case of Natural Somnambulism. By Dr. Verdet - -	185
2. Observations on the Fluid of the Vesiculæ Seminales of Man. By Dr. John Davy. - -	187
3. On the Veins of the Uterine Decidua. By Dr. Robert Lee. -	188
4. On the Venous Circle of the Mammary Areola. By Professor Sebastian. - -	190
5. On the accessory Supra-Renal Capsules. By Professor Sebastian. - - - -	190

PATHOLOGICAL ANATOMY AND GENERAL PATHOLOGY.

6. Exostosis of the Pelvis of unusually rapid growth. By Wm. Lawrence, Esq. - -	191
7. Hepatic Abscess opening into the Stomach by three perforations; also into the Pericardium. By R. J. Graves, M. D. - -	192
8. Silver Spoon swallowed—afterwards discharged through an abscess in the epigastrium. -	195

MATERIA MEDICA AND GENERAL THERAPEUTICS.

9. Kermes Mineral as an emetic and purgative. By Dr. Toulmouche: - - - -	195
10. Method of determining the genuineness of Ergot. By Mr. T. H. Wardleworth. - -	196

	PAGE		PAGE
11. Medical Properties of Zinc. By G. G. SIGMOND, M. D. -	196	12. Value of Crocote as compared with other remedies. By Dr. Du Lea. -	201
12. On the Properties and Therapeutic powers of Camphor. By G. G. Sigmond, M. D. -	198		

SPECIAL PATHOLOGY AND SPECIAL THERAPEUTICS.

14. Treatment of Irritation of the Stomach. By Jonathan Osborne, M. D. -	201	20. Hepatic Abscess. By Dr. Jackson. -	212
15. Neuralgia of the Testicle. By Dr. Graves. -	204	21. Case illustrating the History, Symptoms, Pathology and mode of Treatment of Simple Ulceration of the Stomach. By Langston Parker, M. R. C. S. -	214
16. Method of preparing Sinapisms for the purpose of withdrawing Gout from the vital organs to the extremities. -	204	22. On Simple Ulceration of the Stomach, with observations on those forms of gastric irritation which more commonly precede and accompany it. By Langston Parker, Esq. -	215
17. Treatment of Permanent Hypertrophy of the Tonsils. By Dr. Graves. -	205	23. Experiments on the application of narcotics in the form of vapour. By C. W. Hufeland. -	221
18. Spasm of the Glottis or Laryngeal Asthma. By Dr. T. H. Burgess. -	205	24. Heart diseases not seated in the heart. By C. W. Hufeland. -	222
19. Efficacy of Emetics in removing Paralysis of the Facial Nerve. By Dr. C. J. Heidler. -	211		

SURGERY.

25. Encysted Dropsy of the Thyroid Gland. By Dr. Selwyn. -	224	32. Case of Ileus in which Gastro-tomy was performed. By M. Monod. -	233
26. Division of the Prostate in Lithotomy. By H. M. Phillips, Esq. -	224	33. Desault's apparatus for fractured femur. -	235
27. Fearn's case of Aneurism of the Innominata, treated by ligature of the Carotid and Sub-clavian arteries. -	225	34. Hydrocele treated by acupuncture. By Dr. Davidson. -	235
28. On the cure of wry neck by dividing the sterno-cleido-mastoid muscle beneath the skin. By Prof. Dieffenbach. -	226	35. Dislocation of the Humerus, attended with a grating sensation on motion, leading to the supposition that the case was complicated with fracture. By Wm. Lawrence, Esq. -	236
29. Hydrocele. By M. Dujat. -	231	36. Malignant Ulcer under the left ear cured by chloride of zinc. By Wm. Davidson, M. D. -	237
30. Dislocation of the Radius forwards. By Mr. Coley. -	232	37. Treatment and Causes of Erysipelas. By Wm. Davidson, M. D. -	238
31. Extirpation of the Tongue. By M. Regnoli. -	232		

OPHTHALMOLOGY.

38. Glaucoma. By Dr. Wm. Mackenzie. -	240	Turpentine in diseases of the Eye. By Dr. A. Trinchinetti. -	242
39. Use of the essential oil of		40. Hereditary Hemeralopia. By M. Florent Cunier. -	242

MIDWIFERY.

PAGE	PAGE
47. On the Position of the Placenta in the Womb during pregnancy, and on the manner in which the latter organ expands therein, as also of its subsequent contractions in the process of Parturition. By Hugh Carmichael, Esq. - - - - -	242
48. Unconscious Delivery. By Robert Hall, Esq. - - - - -	243

MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE AND TOXICOLOGY.

43. Poisoning with Arsenous acid successfully treated by the Hydrated peroxide of iron. By Dr. Deville. - - - - -	243	44. Effect of Respiring Carbonic Acid. By C. T. Coathupe. - - - - -	244
---	-----	---	-----

MEDICAL STATISTICS.

45. Vital Statistics of Glasgow. By Dr. Robert Cowan. - - - - -	246	in Illegitimate than in legitimate births. By Prof. Jorg. - - - - -	251
46. Periodical Mortality of the Human Race. - - - - -	250	48. Pauper Lunatics and Idiots in England and Wales. - - - - -	251
47. Greater number of still-born			

ANIMAL CHEMISTRY.

49. Urea in the Blood in Chole- ra. By Dr. Rainy. - - - - -	251	50. Analysis of the Liquor Amnii. By Dr. G. O. Rees. - - - - -	252
--	-----	--	-----

MISCELLANEOUS.

51. Revaccination. By M. De- zeimeris. - - - - -	252	New Books, - - - - -	252
---	-----	----------------------	-----

AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE.

On the Catoptric examination of the Eye. By the Editor. - - - - -	255	New Vaccine Virus. - - - - -	256
Expulsion of one twin Fœtus, the other retained to the full period. By S. Jackson, M. D. - - - - -	256	Report of Thomas Lawson, M.D. Surgeon General of the United States Army. - - - - -	256
Closure and obliteration of the Os uteri, during pregnancy. By Samuel Weber, M. D. - - - - -	256	Malignant Pustule. - - - - -	259
Case of Club-foot treated by division of the Tendo Achillis. By Thomas J. Garden, M. D. - - - - -	257	Osteo-sarcoma, and excision of a large portion of the lower jaw. By Dr. J. Wort. - - - - -	260
		Wound of the Stomach. - - - - -	261
		Dr. S. & G. H. White's Lunatic Asylum at Hudson, N. York. - - - - -	262

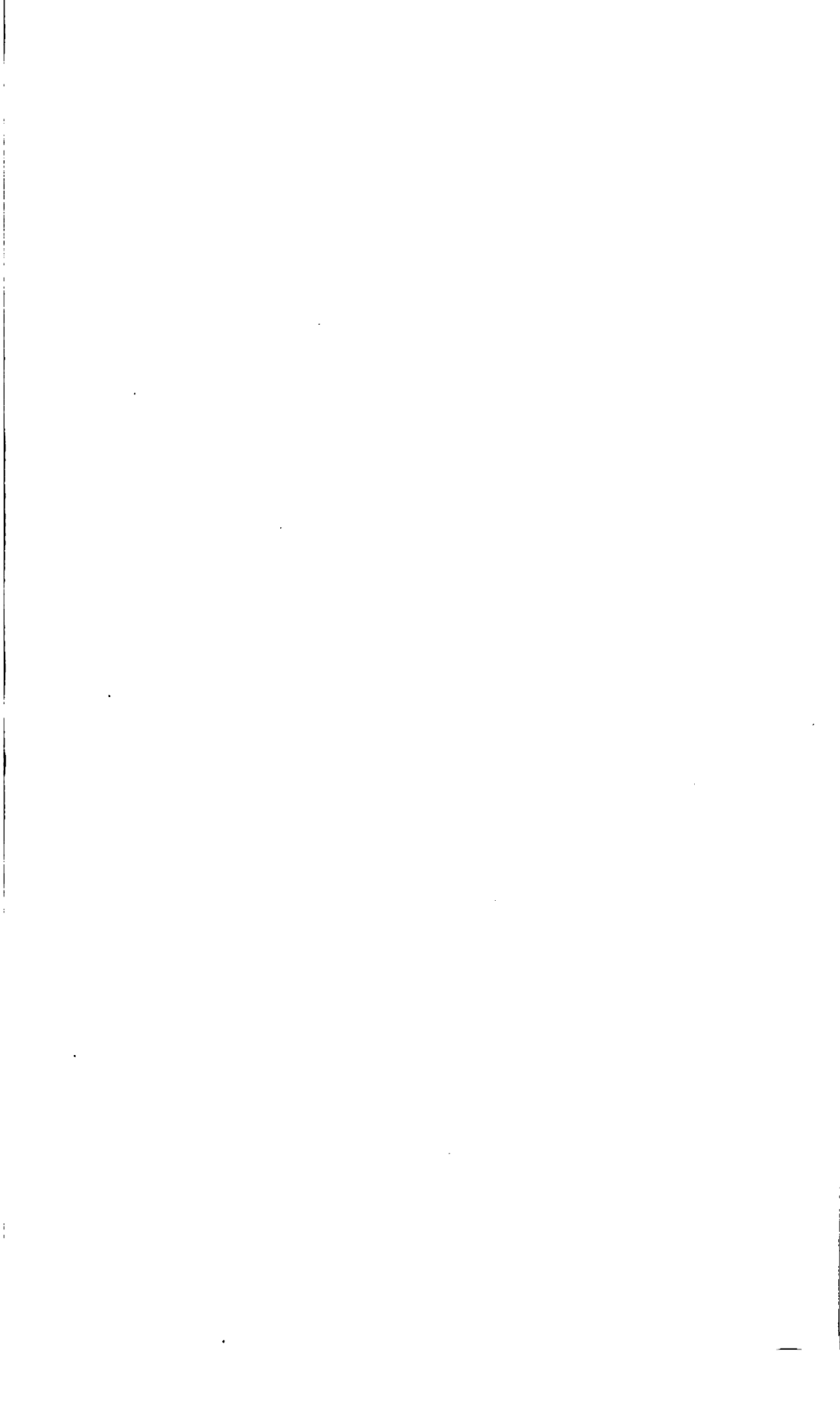
	PAGE		PAGE
Massachusetts General Hos-		Dartmouth College. - -	- 264
pital. - - - - -	- 263	Medical College of Georgia. -	- 264
Philadelphia Medical Society. -	- 264	Geneva College. - - -	- 264
University of Pennsylvania. -	- 264	Louisville Medical Institute -	- 264
Transylvania University. - -	- 263	New Works. - - - -	- 264
University of Maryland - - -	- 264		

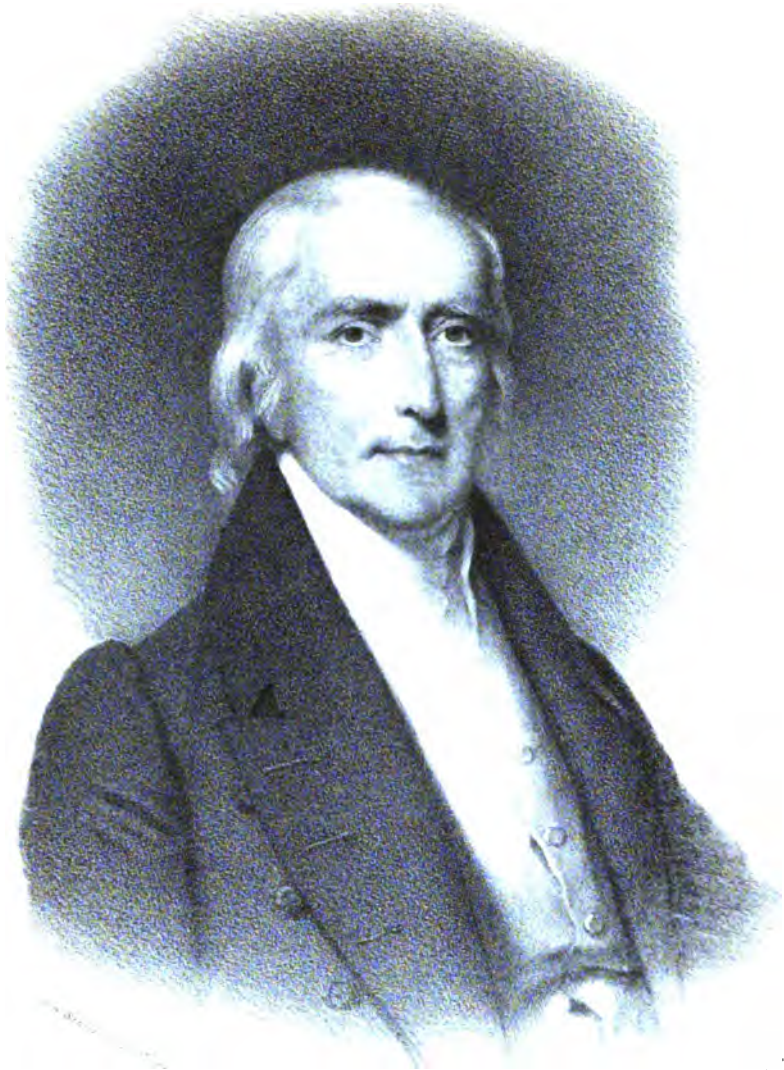
ERRATA.

It is stated in the review of Professor Jackson's Report on Typhoid fever, in our No. for November last, p. 132, that there is evidently some mistake in the calculations. The writer of the article was led into this error from a misapprehension of the manner in which the tables of the author were drawn out. These tables are made to show how frequently each symptom considered separately, presented itself; but, as in some of the cases, two or more symptoms occurred together, without it being stated how often this happened, one who was not aware of this fact, might readily suppose the number of cases to have been greater than it really was, and thus infer an error in the calculations.

We may notice at this time a typographical error at p. 134, next line to bottom, in which none is placed for one. It should read, in one there was perforation of the intestine.

These corrections should have been made in our preceding No., and we owe many apologies to our estimable and respected correspondent for the omission.





PHILIP SYNG PELTSICK, D.D.

L. Myrick

THE
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ART. I. *Account of the Asylum for the Relief of persons deprived of the use of their Reason, near Frankford, Pennsylvania, with the Statistics of the Institution from its foundation to the 31st 12th month, 1838.*
By CHARLES EVANS, M. D., Attending Physician to the Asylum.

OF all the maladies to which the human system is obnoxious, those which affect the manifestations of mind have undoubtedly the strongest claim upon our sympathy and care. Notwithstanding this is now generally acknowledged, yet it is comparatively of but recent time, that the public sympathy has been effectively demonstrated, by providing adequate and appropriate means for the cure of persons afflicted with those diseases; or for alleviating the distress and securing the comfort of such as may be beyond the reach of remedial aid. All experience has proved, that in the great majority of cases, separation from friends, and seclusion from society, are indispensable to the recovery of the insane; besides which the peace of their families, and the well being of society, demand their restraint; hence, places for their reception have been common in all Christian countries: but until the present century, these institutions appear to have been conducted, mainly, with a view to the security of their wretched inmates; provision for their medical and moral treatment, being altogether unheeded, or made of very secondary consideration. Left to the conduct of the ignorant, the selfish, and the unfeeling, whose principal aim was to escape trouble and secure their own emolument, the mad-houses (as the English termed them,) embraced more heart-sickening degradation, and more unheeded suffering, than could be found in any other receptacles of human misery. The real state of the

houses for the reception and treatment of the insane, in Great Britain was first disclosed to the public by the report of a committee of the House of Commons, published in 1816. Credulity itself is staggered at the recital, of the before unheard of cruelty practised, and misery endured, within the walls of most of those institutions, many of which, the public had been accustomed to regard with pride, as monuments of their liberality and benevolence. There were, however, a few honourable exceptions, and conspicuous among these was the Retreat near York, which was projected by the Society of Friends as early as 1792, the same year in which Pinel commenced his celebrated reform in the Bicêtre at Paris. The plan of that Institution originated with a few individuals in the society, who, having accidentally become acquainted with the manner in which the insane were habitually treated, resolved to rescue such of their fellow professors as suffered under that pre-eminent affliction, from the misery which surrounded them, and to place them in a situation where they would be subjected to a totally different course of management from that pursued in any of the existing establishments. Accordingly grounds were purchased, buildings erected, and in 1796 a considerable number of patients received, and a course of treatment carried out, such as had never before been practised towards the insane, and which gave a rational ground to hope that their cure would be effected, or, at all events, their comfort and welfare secured. The Retreat was soon resorted to by others than Friends, and in a short time the success obtained there, demonstrated beyond contradiction, the superior efficacy, both in respect of cure and security, of a mild and humane system of treatment in all cases of mental disorder. To the philanthropic members of that religious society, who founded and conducted the Retreat, belongs (together with Pinel, who made some reformation in the horrible abuses of one of the Paris hospitals,) the credit, whatever it may be, of changing the course of treatment long pursued toward those deprived of the use of their reason, and restoring to them that sympathetic kindness and control which their affliction peculiarly demands. The example thus set was slow in extending its influence, as is evident from the state of the institutions throughout Great Britain, when the investigation before alluded to, took place. That it had, however, a decided effect in awakening the public mind to the importance of a reformation in the insane hospitals, is shown by several parts of the evidence given before the committee of the House of Commons. Dr. Weir, Inspector of Naval Hospitals, states in his testimony, that "the object of almost every insane institution, whether of a public or private description, had been the *security* of those pitiable objects; comfort, medical and moral treatment being in great measure overlooked; happily, however, for that class of society, the Quakers' Retreat at York, has at last convinced the world, how much may be done towards the amelioration of their condition."

From the time the subject was thus brought before the public, the

arrangement and economy of asylums for the insane have become the subjects of attentive study and experiment, until, under the influence of an enlightened philanthropy, they have been radically changed, so that within the walls of every such institution properly conducted, are congregated, not only the various resources of medical science and art, and every thing calculated to divert the mind from its erroneous associations, and give new vigour to its powers; but also all that needful care, decided control, and well-directed kindness, which, owing to perverted feelings, the sufferer rejects, or cannot appreciate while within his own domestic circle, but which are generally accepted with thankfulness from the hands of a stranger, and contribute powerfully to lessen his distress and restore his health.

In 1812, motives, similar to those which actuated the founders of the Retreat in England, induced a large number of the members of the same society in Pennsylvania, to attempt the establishment of a similar institution. They associated themselves together under the title of "The Contributors to the Asylum for the Relief of Persons deprived of the use of their Reason," for the purpose (as expressed in their constitution,) of providing for the suitable accommodation of that afflicted class of our (their) fellow members, and professors with us, (them) who are or may be deprived of the use of their reason; as well as the relief of their families and friends." Subscriptions were opened, and in the course of a comparatively short time, a sufficient amount of funds having been collected, the institution which I am about to describe was built, and in 1817 opened for the reception of patients. At that time there was no asylum in this country which could serve as a model for an institution of the kind, those existing only answering to show how entirely inappropriate for the accommodation of the insane were the plans upon which they were constructed.

The Asylum for the Relief of Persons deprived of the use of their Reason, is situated in a healthy and retired part of Oxford township, distant about five miles north from Philadelphia, and one mile westward from Frankford. The whole building, which faces the north, is three hundred and twenty-two feet eight inches in length, being made up as follows:

The centre building is sixty feet square and three stories high above the basement; having two wings standing back about eighteen feet from its front, each one hundred feet long by twenty-four feet in depth, and two stories high; terminating in end buildings, which project four feet in advance of each wing, and are thirty-one feet four inches in front, by twenty-eight feet four inches in depth, and three stories high, exclusive of the basement. From each of these end buildings, a wing, running south, at right angles with the front, extends twenty-six feet eight inches in length, by twenty-two feet six inches in depth, and corresponding in height with the front wings.

The first story of the centre building contains four large rooms, divided from each other by halls running at right angles, one of which leads directly

through the building from north to south, and has the staircase in it, while the other opens into each wing. The two front rooms are appropriated, the one as a parlour for the superintendant, the other as an office and receiving room; the two in the rear, which respectively communicate with the wing of the side on which it is situated, are used as day-rooms for the patients. The second story of this building also contains two large rooms, situated with respect to the wings like the two below, and like them appropriated as day-rooms for the patients, besides which, there are four smaller rooms used by the family of the superintendant. There are four large, and three smaller rooms in the third story. One of the larger is occupied by the resident physician, and one as a sitting room for the convalescent female patients; the apothecary shop is also on this story. The wings each contain twenty good-sized rooms for patients, with a lobby or passage ten feet wide, running the whole length in front of them, at the extremity of which is the staircase. The end buildings, or lodges, as they are called, though united to the wings by the front wall, yet have their other walls entirely distinct; and in the lower story, are separated from the wings by a passage five feet wide, leading to the airing yards. Immediately over this passage, is the staircase leading from the second to the third story of the lodge. The rooms, both in the body of the lodges and their wings, are on the west side, with an entry six feet wide running in the rear of them on the east side; these entries are lighted by a window at each end, the wall on the side next the wings being unbroken and of extraordinary thickness. This separation of the two lodges from the rest of the building, is for the purpose of preventing the transmission of sound, and is found effectually to prevent the convalescent and quiet patients, who are kept in the wings, from being injured or annoyed by the noise of the violent and unruly ones, who are confined to the lodges. The first story of the lodges contains the bath rooms, a day room and two rooms for patients; the other rooms in the different stories, for the accommodation of the patients and their care-takers, are about twelve feet square.

In the centre building are the refectory, kitchen, ironing-room, and store-room; rooms for cooking, washing, &c., are adjoining under the wings, where also are the furnaces; furnaces are likewise located in the basement of the lodges. The whole building is covered with slate, and may be said to be nearly fire-proof. The basement story is paved with brick or flags, and arched, while the bottoms of the floors, and the joists in all parts of the house are thickly plastered with mortar, and then ceiled in the usual manner. In all parts of the building accessible to the patients, the window sash is of cast iron, and stationary. The lower one in each window is glazed, and outside of the upper is a wooden sash, glazed, which is hung, so as to be raised or lowered at pleasure. This arrangement, while it ensures security from escape, prevents the appearance of a place of confinement. The rooms in the centre building, and the patients' day rooms, ex-

cept those in the lodges, are warmed by means of stoves and grates. The wings and lodges have heated air, conducted from the furnaces before mentioned, as located in the basement story, into the lobbies and each room. The openings for the admission of the warm air into the rooms, are near the ceiling, and covered with wire-gauze, and the air can be stopped off at any time by means of dampers, situated so as to be regulated only by the attendants. Some of the rooms are provided with shutters for the exclusion of light when required, as also with wire protection to the glass.

Immediately under the roof in each wing is a large reservoir for water, supplied by means of a forcing-pump, from a never-failing stream, which issues forth a short distance from the house. From these reservoirs the water is conveyed to the bath rooms, and various other parts of the building.

The great extension of front in a building intended for the accommodation of but sixty-five patients, was deemed necessary in order to give to each, a separate, well proportioned room, having all the advantages to be derived from the free admission of light and air. Where the rooms are arranged on both sides of an entry of the usual width, these two essential requisites to health and cheerfulness cannot be commanded; added to which, the patients occupying opposite rooms are very liable to be mutually annoying, and in every respect (unless it be that of saving money), that mode of building for the insane is highly objectionable. On this account the plan adopted at the Friends' Asylum is worthy of imitation.

On one side of the wings are situated the chambers, ten feet square, each having a window, four feet six inches in height, by two feet ten inches in width. These rooms open on to the lobby, ten feet wide (as before mentioned), and directly opposite the door of each room is a window corresponding in size with that in the room. Over each door is fixed a cast iron sash, thirty-two by twenty inches in size, fitted with a moveable glazed sash, to be opened or shut at pleasure. By this arrangement, a full supply of light and a free circulation of air are secured, and the lobbies being comfortably warmed in cold weather, they afford pleasant places for walking and exercise of different kinds.

The kitchen and refectory, situated on the back part of the basement story of the centre building, open on to an area, which is fifteen feet wide opposite the centre building, and connects with one ten feet wide running the whole length of the western, and past that of the eastern wing. These areas are paved with brick, and have a well, fitted with a pump in them. The outside of the area is sodded, and rises regularly to a level with the garden and yards in the rear.

A neat vestibule, having its sides enclosed with Venetian shutters, sixteen feet in length, and corresponding in width with the large hall running through the ground floor of the centre building, is thrown over the widest part of the area, and leads directly into a flower-garden. In the rear of the

wings and lodges are the airing yards, each surrounded by walls ten feet in height, enclosing about half an acre of ground, for the use of such of each sex, as are not well enough to be allowed to walk, unattended, in the gardens and pleasure grounds. Each yard is subdivided by a board fence, cutting off about one-third of it; into which the idiotic and filthy patients are put, that they may not offend those who take more care of themselves. These yards are made pleasant with trees and summer-houses, the passages leading to them, as before mentioned, are between the wings and end-buildings. The entrances to the privies are from these yards: a door opening through the wall into them; there are no water-closets or other accommodation of the kind, within the buildings. Between these yards is a large flower-garden, and immediately beyond them the vegetable garden; the two containing about two acres of ground. At the termination of a gravel walk leading directly from the house through these two gardens, at the distance of about three hundred feet, is an ornamental house, surrounded on all sides by a piazza, fitted up as a library and reading room, and containing numerous specimens of natural history, maps, drawings, &c. &c., affording a most agreeable resort for such patients as may be considered by the physician well enough to enjoy it.

Over the spot where rises the stream that supplies the institution with water, at a short distance from the eastern end of the building, is erected a stone house, two stories in height, beside a basement; the lower story of which contains a forcing-pump so arranged, as to be easily worked by four of the patients; while the upper one is fitted up as a work-shop, with a turning lathe, tools, &c. Here many of the patients find interesting employment.

Connected with the various buildings described, is a farm of sixty-one acres, the greater part of which is under cultivation, and by giving the patients the opportunity for various agreeable and active out-door employments, affords the most powerful means for their restoration to health and reason. The woodlands cover about eighteen acres of ground, and are made up principally of the chestnut, beech and oak, affording a deep and delightful solitude and shade. A broad serpentine walk, more than a mile in length, winds throughout them, and a large summer-house and seats in various situations, are provided for the accommodation of the patients. Near the entrance to the woods, and enclosing a small part of them, is a park containing some fine deer.

Experience having proved that the comfort and cure of the insane are materially affected by the construction of the building in which they are placed, numerous plans have been suggested and acted upon, each of which has its admirers. All however who have had any practical knowledge of the treatment of those labouring under the disease, and their liability to be acted upon by the objects which surround them, unite in the sentiment, that that plan will prove the best, which, with equal convenience,

combines the most means for introducing well-adapted employment and exercise, with the best arrangement for an extensive classification which can be kept permanently distinct.

Where the conveniences for classification are wanting, the most lamentable consequences must necessarily be witnessed even in institutions which may otherwise be conducted in the most unexceptionable manner. The employment of moral remedial means, is either absolutely precluded or rendered nugatory, when the patient upon the first dawn of reason feels the horror of being constantly surrounded by his pitiable associates, in all the different gradations of maniacal phrenzy and idiotic imbecility. These evils are guarded against at the Asylum by such a classification as is allowed of by the arrangement of the building.

The male patients occupy the eastern, and the female the western side of the house, both sides being arranged alike. The end buildings, or lodges, are occupied (as before mentioned), exclusively by the noisy and imbecile. Such of them as are fit to be out of their own rooms, have the liberty of a well-lighted and cheerful day room, situated in the southern extremity of the lower story of the wing of the lodge. Another class of patients occupy the lower story of the main wing, and have for their sitting room the large room described as forming part of the lower story of the centre building. The upper story of the wing is devoted to a third class who are more nearly well, and such as show no violence, and conduct themselves generally with propriety; they likewise have a day room for their peculiar accommodation, situated on the second story of the centre building, corresponding with the one below. All these patients, however, have access to the same yard, excepting that the worst are confined to a small part of the yard, which is boarded off, as before described.

For the accommodation of such of the females as are nearly restored, there is a large room in the third story of the centre building fitted up as a drawing room, where they can pursue their various amusements and employments entirely undisturbed by the other inmates of the house. There is no such room for the men, but the same class of patients among them, usually resort to the library, when circumstances will not admit, or they are not disposed to walk abroad. Such of the patients as do not eat in their own rooms, take their meals in the day rooms attached to the respective parts of the building where they are placed.

The government of the institution is lodged in the hands of a steward and matron, and resident physician, whose whole time is devoted to fulfilling the various duties of their respective stations. An attending physician visits the patients regularly twice a week, and as much oftener as the urgency of a case may require. A Board of twenty Managers, appointed yearly by the Association, have the supervision of the whole, and by a committee of three, inspect every part of the establishment once in each week.

In the treatment pursued at the Asylum, endeavours are used, so to combine medical and moral agents, that each shall render the other its most efficient aid, and jointly exert their remedial powers with the greatest certainty and effect. The therapeutical treatment of course varies according to the disease, which by affecting the brain, disturbs the manifestations of the mind. An accurate account of such treatment and its results, is constantly kept, and at some future day may afford data for ascertaining the relative advantages of the course pursued.

The moral means employed are various. Where it is found necessary, mild and gentle yet firm restraint is imposed, while the earliest gleams of returning reason are watched and cherished.

In the house, there are provided, games of different kinds; reading, writing, drawing, &c. The females sew, knit, quilt, &c. The library is furnished with books, periodicals, drawings, &c. Exercise in the open air is always promoted, and the patients encouraged, whenever the weather will permit, to engage in walking and riding. A carriage and horses are always in readiness, morning and evening, for their accommodation. In the lawn fronting the house, is located a circular rail-road about four hundred and fifty feet in circumference, with a pleasure-car on it, large enough to accommodate two, which is moved by hand. Riding upon this road is a very favourite amusement, and as it is attended with considerable exercise, it is found highly advantageous. Every exertion is made to interest the male patients in gardening, and in the various employments afforded in the cultivation of the farm. The diet of the patient of course varies according to the prescription of the physician, but in general it is plain and nutritious; fresh meat and a variety of vegetables being served up every day. Tea, coffee, and milk are all abundantly supplied.

The Asylum was opened for the admission of patients in the 5th month of 1817, and the following table exhibits the number, sex, and social state of those received yearly, up to the conclusion of 1838.

Year.	Whole number.	Men.	Women.	Single.	Married.	Widows.	Widowers.	Year.	Whole number.	Men.	Women.	Single.	Married.	Widows.	Widowers.
1817	18	9	9	13	5	0	0	1828	18	8	10	9	6	3	0
1818	21	13	8	9	9	2	1	1829	19	10	9	11	7	0	1
1819	17	10	7	10	5	0	2	1830	19	12	7	11	6	0	2
1820	23	13	10	14	8	1	0	1831	28	14	14	15	10	2	1
1821	22	13	9	15	5	2	0	1832	33	21	12	15	18	0	0
1822	20	6	14	13	5	2	0	1833	24	10	14	10	5	9	0
1823	18	10	8	10	7	1	0	1834	40	20	20	16	21	3	0
1824	18	10	8	10	5	2	1	1835	53	24	29	25	16	8	4
1825	28	13	15	12	9	5	2	1836	56	31	25	30	22	4	0
1826	26	15	11	12	8	4	2	1837	49	29	20	24	24	1	0
1827	21	10	11	10	8	3	0	1838	63	30	33	32	25	5	1

Whole number of admissions,	-	-	-	-	-	634
" Men,	-	-	-	-	-	331
" Women,	-	-	-	-	-	303
" Single,	-	-	-	-	-	326
" Married,	-	-	-	-	-	234
" Widowers,	-	-	-	-	-	17
" Widows,	-	-	-	-	-	57
Of these there were below 20 years of age,	-	-	-	-	-	28
From 20 to 30 years,	-	-	-	-	-	187
" 30 to 40 "	-	-	-	-	-	141
" 40 to 50 "	-	-	-	-	-	126
" 50 to 60 "	-	-	-	-	-	83
" 60 to 70 "	-	-	-	-	-	48
" 70 to 80 "	-	-	-	-	-	15
" 80 to 90 "	-	-	-	-	-	5
" 90 to 100 "	-	-	-	-	-	1

634

Of these 634 admissions, 127 were re-admissions granted to 81 individuals, and leaving 507 persons who have been under care.

The following table shows the duration of the disease at the time of admission of these 507 cases, and the results of treatment.

Duration.	Number.	Restored.	Much Imp.	Improved.	Stationary	Remaining	Died.
Less than 1 year,	261	152	26	27	18	4	34
From 1 to 2 years,	57	18	8	8	9	7	7
From 2 to 3 years,	36	17	3	3	4	5	4
From 3 to 5 years,	45	14	7	6	9	3	6
From 5 to 10 years,	47	13	7	3	8	11	5
Over 10 years,	61	0	7	5	22	13	14
Aggregate,	507	214	52	52	70	43	70

The proportion of cures in these cases is 42.21 in every hundred; but if we deduct the sixty-one cases, which at the time of admission had been deranged over ten years (and which included twenty who either were idiots, or had been imbecile from puberty), five cases complicated with epilepsy, and five which entered the institution with the paralysis peculiar to the insane, it leaves 436 cases, properly subject to treatment, and the cures are in the proportion of 49 in every hundred.

The per centage of cures in cases of less than a year's duration, taking

the whole twenty-two years is 58.23. Within the last six years, it has been 66. Nearly all of this class, discharged as "much improved," were almost well; but either pecuniary considerations, or the anxiety of their friends, occasioned their removal as soon as the disease was so far overcome as to render their perfect restoration probable; and in many instances information was afterwards received of their perfect recovery.

Of the seventy deaths, six occurred within a week of the time of their admission; nine within two weeks; seven within three weeks; and three within four weeks; these were mostly cases of acute inflammation of the brain, or its meninges, many of them being brought to the Asylum after all hope of relieving them at home was abandoned. Ten died between a month and a year's residence, and the remainder varying from one year to twenty.

Of the eighty-one patients re-admitted, there were discharged

Restored,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36
Much Improved,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Improved,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Stationary,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Died,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
Remaining in the House,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11

Twenty-two returned a third time; of whom there were discharged—Restored, 14. Improved, 3. Stationary, 3. Died, 3—and one remains in the house. The other re-admissions, were of three individuals, who being liable to periodical insanity, have been accustomed to resort to the Asylum at the commencement of an attack, and to remain there until again restored to the use of their reason.

The following table exhibits the ages of the persons re-admitted, and the duration of the attack at the time of their first admission.

Age.	No.	Duration of Disease.	No.
Below 20 years,	2	Less than 1 year,	39
From 20—30	24	From 1 to 2 years,	7
From 30—40	21	From 2 to 3 years,	7
From 40—50	15	From 3 to 5 years,	7
From 50—60	10	From 5 to 10 years,	10
From 60—70	4	Above 10 years,	11
From 70—80	4		
From 80—90	1		
	81		81

Forty-one of the eighty-one had been originally discharged cured. The interval between the discharge and re-admission, was as follows.

Less than three months,	17	of whom 8 had been discharged cured.
Between three and six months,	9	of whom 2 do.
“ six months and 1 year,	14	do. 11 do.
“ 1 and 2 years, -	11	do. 8 do.
“ 2 and 3 years, -	8	do. 2 do.
“ 3 and 5 years, -	7	do. 4 do.
“ 5 and 10 years, -	13	do. 5 do.
Over 10 years, -	2	do. 1 do.

In some of the cases where this interval was so short as to be within three months, the second indisposition should no doubt be considered as a *relapse*; the organs not having been restored to perfect soundness after the original attack. But when we recollect how prone an organ which has once been diseased, and especially the brain, is, to resume the morbid action upon the occurrence of even a trivial cause, and also that that organ is liable to be affected not only by the causes which produce disease in other parts of the system, but likewise by the moral feelings and emotions of the mind; it is not to be wondered at, that a *recurrence* of disease should often be witnessed where persons are taken from the seclusion and regular habits of an Asylum, and ushered into the cares and excitement of society, as soon as healthy action is believed to have been restored. It is a difficult matter to convince a patient, or his friends, that prudence dictates his stay should be prolonged for a considerable time after he is apparently well, yet it cannot be doubted, that where such a course is pursued, the security of health is greatly increased.

As has been before observed, the Asylum was originally intended for the accommodation of those in membership or profession with the Society of Friends alone; and it continued thus exclusive, until the year 1834, when the contributors withdrew the restriction, and opened the institution for the benefit of all, with the proviso, that “in no case should a member or professor be excluded.”

An accurate record of the place of nativity of each patient, and whether member or not, has been kept from the opening of the institution. By this it appears that the average number of the members of the General Meeting of Friends held annually in Philadelphia, which were under care (including idiots) during the first ten years in which the Asylum was opened, was thirty-one. That meeting includes the greater part of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware, and during those ten years was composed of between twenty and twenty-three thousand members; which, taking the medium, twenty-one thousand five hundred, which I believe is nearly correct, gives the proportion of one in every six hundred ninety-three and a half. In 1827, a large body seceded from that meeting, and its numbers are not now so accurately known; the ratio, however, has not increased.

Dr. Burroughs in his Commentaries, gives currency to the opinion that insanity occurs in a greater proportion among the members of the Society

of Friends, than the population generally, and assigns as a reason, their intermarriage with each other. This however would be entirely insufficient to account for the greater prevalence of the disease among them, if such were really the case, as in Great Britain, from whence he draws his data, there are nearly if not quite twenty-five thousand members; a number so large as to do away the probability of its being attributable to hereditary taint.

As the records of the two institutions for the insane, belonging to the Society, show that intemperance and want, so productive of mental derangement among others, cannot be assigned as the causes of it, in more than one case in every hundred and fifty occurring in the members of that society, and as they are known to be exempted, at least equally with others, from the sources of anxiety which disturb the social state; there would appear to be no other causes for the disproportion of diseases affecting the manifestations of mind, did it really exist, than either defective cerebral organization, or some peculiarity in their religious principles or practices. The former, no one will believe to be the case, and religious mania, as it is commonly but improperly called, is a form of the disorder which so rarely occurs among them; that as a community they may be said to be almost exempt from it.

The true reason of the apparent disparity in the proportional number of those afflicted with derangement in that society, and the community at large, lies in the very defective statistical information obtained of the latter relative to a disease which the ignorance and prejudices of the people lead them to conceal, and upon which incorrect data, a false estimate has heretofore been made. While in the Society of Friends, an accurate knowledge of all the members, liberal provision for the support of their poor, and institutions for its cure under their own care and government, bring nearly every case of idiocy or insanity which occurs among them, under notice.

ART. II. *Observations on the Nature and Treatment of Telangiectasis, or that morbid state of the Blood-vessels which gives rise to Nævus and Aneurism from Anastomosis.* By JOHN WATSON, M.D. Read before the New York Medical and Surgical Society, March 2d, 1839.

By Telangiectasis, as the etymology of the word implies, is meant a dilated state of the extreme vessels. The term was first employed by Graefe, it has since been used by other writers of Germany, France, England and America; and as applied to a morbid condition of the blood-vessels, it is synonymous with the *nævus maternus* of the older writers, the *aneurism from anastomosis* of John Bell, the *tumeur variqueuse* or *fongueuse sanguine* of Boyer, the *tumeur érectile* of Dupuytren. I have adopted it

as more applicable to the cases about to be related, than either of these other terms; it covers the whole ground occupied by a natural group of maladies; it alludes to the actual state of the blood-vessels without referring to the cause, real or imaginary, that gives rise to this; it involves no theory as to whether these diseases be seated in the veins, the arteries, or both; it implies not that these diseases should in all cases exist at birth; and includes those that are deep-seated, as well as such as are visible or superficial.

Previous to the time of John Bell, the superficial forms of telangiectasis were denominated *nævi materni* or mothers' marks; and the French in allusion to a prevalent notion that these marks are caused by longings and mental impressions of the mother during gestation, have commonly termed them *envies*. But the deeper forms, or such as lie beneath the skin without involving it, before the time of Bell, had no specific name assigned to them; they were either described as anomalies, or confounded with a variety of other affections. Without attempting to enter at present upon the pathology of the tumours which Bell has described under the head of *aneurism from anastomosis*, it may here be well to remark that this name is defective and improper; first, in implying that the disease is seated solely in the arteries; and secondly, that the anastomoses of these vessels are more abundant than natural.

Mr. Wardrop has attempted to show that the vascular *nævus* is a disease entirely different from the aneurism by anastomosis, and finds fault with other writers for confounding them: yet none of the distinctive signs which he has specified, can be taken in any other light than as pointing to mere varieties of a disease common to both veins and arteries, frequently confined to the capillaries, but often extending to the other vessels.

Many of the French writers, and some even of our own country who have treated on this disease, have confounded it with that variety of carcinoma which Hey has described under the name of *fungus hematodes*. Some too, after having discovered this error, have committed another in retaining the name *fungus hematodes* in their account of the severer forms of the disease now under consideration. Even Dupuytren, who takes to himself the credit of having first illustrated the pathology of what he calls *erectile tumours*, has aided in perpetuating this confusion: for, under the head of his *erectile tissue* he includes aneurism from anastomosis as described by Bell, *fungus hematodes* as described by Hey and others, and a great variety of normal structures, both in men and other animals, which serve as the type of these two morbid growths. Bell indeed had previously pointed out the analogy in structure between the aneurism from anastomosis, and the normal tissues which Dupuytren has included with it; so that this latter writer has added nothing to our pathological knowledge by his labours on this subject.

The cases of telangiectasis requiring treatment that have fallen under my own observation, have been neither sufficiently numerous nor sufficiently

diversified to illustrate this point of pathology in all its bearings; I shall be obliged therefore in the course of my remarks to refer, for some of the severer forms of this disease, to the cases of other writers.

CASE I.—In March, 1837, I saw with Dr. Stevens an infant ten months old, the daughter of Mr. K., who had for some months past been under treatment for a pulsating tumour on the right side of the face. The tumour was still increasing, and when first seen by Dr. Stevens (March 23d) it extended from just below the inner canthus of the eye, downwards and outwards on the cheek, presenting a circular elevation an inch and a quarter in diameter, lying mostly beneath the integuments, but raising the skin about three-fourths of an inch above its natural level.

The spot from which the present deformity originated, according to the mother's account, was not observed until some days after the child's birth, and when first noticed, it was a mere point of bright red colour under the inner corner of the right eye. When the child was three months old, the swelling was as broad as the mother's thumb nail, somewhat elevated, and throbbing. At this period the parents became alarmed, and consulted Dr. Mott, who applied caustic potassa to the tumour. This produced an eschar which separating, left an ulcerated surface which continued open about eight weeks, and during this time hemorrhage occurred occasionally, but never to any alarming extent. The ulcer finally cicatrized without changing the character of the tumour. It still continued to grow, and in November, 1836, its diameter at the base was about an inch.

The parents at this time applied to Dr. Bushe, and he pierced the tumour with three cautery needles heated to whiteness. This operation caused some hemorrhage at the time, and was followed by considerable inflammation, but not of sufficient severity to change the character of the tumour, or to arrest its growth. The operation was repeated in February, 1837. No hemorrhage followed the second application of the needles, the subsequent inflammation was slight, and the final result of this cauterization was as unsuccessful as the first.

From a drawing taken at Dr. Stevens's first visit, (I did not see it until after he had operated upon it,) the disease appears to have originally involved the skin, and to have afterwards extended to the subjacent tissues. It is represented of a light pink colour, interspersed with minute scarlet points, and with larger spots of a purplish hue.

Having learnt the nature of the previous operations, and dreading the deformity, not to speak of the danger, likely to result from any attempt at extirpating the tumour, Dr. Stevens, with the view of exciting inflammation sufficient to change the character of the vitiated growth, determined upon introducing a seton. A blunt-pointed needle, armed with several silk threads, was accordingly passed from the inner towards the outer edge, and completely under the swelling; the needle was withdrawn, and the silk threads left as a seton in the wound. No hemorrhage followed the operation; the threads were sufficiently numerous to fill the track of the needle, and thus to prevent bleeding.

On the fifth day after the operation, suppuration was established along the course of the seton; the inflammation gradually extended to the tumour, and continued to increase until April 15th, (twenty-three days after the insertion of the threads,) at which time the external character of the swelling was suddenly changed, and purulent matter was evidently forming within it. On the following day the existence of pus was still more manifest; the bright

red colour of the integuments had given place to a pale yellowish tinge; and the whole tumour had the appearance of a large phlegmon about to burst. The circumference, however was still red; and on the edge next the eye the original character of the swelling was still perceptible.

April 17th. An eschar formed in the centre, and the abscess broke, giving issue to a copious flow of dark brown consistent pus. This continued to ooze out in considerable quantity for several days afterwards.

April 25th. The seton was withdrawn from beneath the tumour. The inflammation excited by it had, since the bursting of the abscess, already much abated; and the tumour was reduced to one-third of its former size. A purplish spot, however, still existed at the upper edge, indicating that the portion of the tumour at this point was still unaltered; but, with this exception, the whole of the diseased tissue had become indurated.

June 8th. The swelling was still further diminished; the purplish spot still observable; the abscess not yet entirely healed; and the appearance of the integuments about it, such as are usually presented in the normal tissue under chronic inflammation.

After this date I lost sight of the case until December, 1838. On examining the child, at this period, not the slightest vestige of the disease remained; the integuments were of their natural colour, and the cicatrix was only observable on minute examination.

In accordance with the distinctions attempted by Mr. Wardrop, between *nævus* and aneurism from anastomosis, this tumour would belong to the latter class. It differed from his subcutaneous *nævus*, first, in having originally manifested itself at some time after birth; secondly, by originating in the skin, and extending afterwards to the subjacent tissues; and, lastly, in having a pulsatory movement. In short, the morbid development appears here to have been seated in the capillary arteries, whilst in the disease described by Wardrop, the corresponding veins were the vessels most affected.* It is worthy of further observation, in this case, that the caustic potassa, and even the cautery needles, appear to have excited so trifling a degree of inflammation; and even when this was effectually established by the seton, its progress was unusually slow, several months having intervened between the formation of the abscess and its final closure. This same observation, I find, has also been made by Mr. Lawrence, who states that, in one portion of these morbid structures, inflammation may progress to mortification, without exciting inflammation in other parts immediately adjacent.† But, when once inflamed, these tissues are apt to sphacelate, as may be seen by consulting the cases of Pelletan and others; and perhaps in the case just related, the abscess might have for a long time been prevented from closing, by a portion of this mortified tissue remaining at the bottom of it.

CASE II.—Mr. H.'s son, three months old, was seen, Sept. 18th, 1837, having three *nævi* on its back, and another on its arm, near the elbow. The largest of these was about two inches in diameter, and seated behind the left

* See his remarks in the *Lancet*, vol. xii. p. 394, (June 30, 1827,) and his earlier paper on this subject in the *Medico-Chirurgical Transactions*, vol. ix. p. 199.

† *Lancet*, vol. ix. p. 163.

shoulder, involving the skin in its central part; but extending beneath the skin without involving it in the circumference. It was also somewhat elevated, and had an ulcerated spot in the middle, as large as a ten cent piece. It had existed at birth, and had grown considerably since; and, when pressed, it communicated to the finger an obscure thrill, or pulsating movement. The second was about one-fourth as large as this, and was seated on the opposite shoulder. The third one was very small, and lay immediately below the preceding. These two, as well as the spot on the elbow, were not observed at birth; they had not grown so rapidly as the first; they were apparently confined to the skin itself, and were somewhat elevated. Their colour was a bright purple; but the subcutaneous portion of the first one had a different hue, as if caused by the purplish colour striking through the healthy skin.

Through the largest of them Dr. Stevens introduced a seton, passing it, as in the preceding case, beneath the apparent base of the *nævus*. The second spot was removed by excision, the knife extending to the sound integument, a line or more beyond the boundaries of the *nævus*. Very little blood followed the operation: the integuments were drawn together over the wound by a suture and adhesive straps. The third spot was not molested at this time; but in a few days afterwards it was touched with *cali purum*. The spot on the elbow was left entirely to itself.

In a few days after these operations, the seton had ulcerated its way through the centre of the principal spot, without producing much irritation or inflammation. Another seton was introduced in an opposite direction, and the surface of the spot was brushed over with *cali*. The wound left by the incision had not united by the adhesive process, and was left to granulate. An eschar had formed over the third one, to which caustic had already been applied.

On the 30th of September, the part upon which the incision had been made was nearly cicatrized; the spot beneath it was granulating, but not so far advanced in cure. The large *nævus* was now an open fungous ulcer, and at first sight it might easily have been mistaken for a fungus hematodes. The second seton had nearly ulcerated its way through. Caustic was again freely applied over the surface of the sore, and a compress and roller employed, in order to repress the fungous growth.

Subsequent to this date, the two small spots on the back required no further treatment. The last application of caustic had the effect of destroying the fungus; the ulcerated surface gradually closed, and at the end of three months the disease was completely eradicated. But the integuments over the principal spot preserved a bluish tinge for some time afterwards. The spot upon the elbow still persists, without any disposition to grow larger.

The spots in this case appear to have been confined to the capillary vessels, and to have originated in the skin. The rapidity with which the setons ulcerated their way through the large *nævus*, does not prove that the vitality of the tumour was very great; but, on the contrary, that it was less than natural; and the slight degree of inflammation produced by the threads, is confirmatory of this remark. Judging from this case, the seton does not appear to be well adapted for the cure of superficial *nævi*, especially where the base is broad;—the caustic, in this case, was evidently much more effectual.

CASE III.—Mr. S.'s daughter, six months old, had a congenital *nævus* on

the right side, near the lower margin of the thorax: it was altogether cutaneous, of a bright red colour, and somewhat elevated; it did not pulsate, and was about an inch and a half in diameter. When first observed, it was not elevated above the surface, and was not larger than a five cent piece; but within the last few weeks, it has been rapidly increasing.

On the 2d of November, 1838, Dr. Stevens, embracing the diseased portion of integument with a pair of forceps, elevated it, and removed it by one stroke of the bistoury. A small artery was observed in the centre of the wound thus made; which, from its brisk hemorrhage, appeared to be much larger than the cutaneous vessels usually are. The blood poured from it in jets, and a ligature was required to arrest the hemorrhage. On examining the extirpated portion of skin, the continuation of this vessel was observed entering at the centre of the diseased spot; and, even in its contracted state, its calibre was sufficiently large to admit a thick bristle.

The edges of the wound were approximated by adhesive straps, and in a few days afterwards the child was entirely well.

The organization of the nævus in this case, was apparently the same as in the preceding cases; and that the capillary arteries were the principal seat of disease, is proved by the dilated state of the cutaneous artery, through which the morbid structure was supplied with blood. Was the nævus in this case owing to the dilated condition of the vessel leading to it? or was the dilatation the necessary result of the increased flow of blood towards the diseased tissue? By consulting other cases, in which the expansion of the vessels was much more marked than in this, we find that the increased development of the larger vessels always begins at or near their capillary terminations, and gradually progresses on towards the heart; that the dilatation is often, but not always, attended with thinning of the coats of the vessels, but without ulceration, or any other sign of inflammatory action, in the great majority of cases. The vessels too are not merely dilated; they are also much increased in length, and twisted on themselves, and convoluted in a great variety of ways.

CASE IV.—Mrs. Geer's son, aged five months, was brought to me on the 19th of June, 1838, with a nævus on the breast just over the centre of the sternum. It manifested itself soon after birth, and has since gradually increased. When I first saw the tumour it was about three quarters of an inch in diameter, and was elevated at least half that extent above the level of the skin; it was of a bright red colour, appeared to be extending to the sub-cutaneous tissues, and had a thrilling movement.

I passed a curved needle armed with silk threads from above downwards through the base of it; and tying these threads tightly on either side of the swelling, I attempted to strangulate it.

June 22d. The ligature on the right side had produced partial ulceration and sloughing at the base of the nævus. On the opposite side the string had become loose; and slipping upwards on the side of the nævus, had forced the blood out of its spongy tissue without completely strangulating the part. The ligature was again tightened.

June 28th. The ligatures ulcerating their way through the diseased skin; but at a point somewhat above the outer edge of the nævus, so that a small rim of the morbid tissue is likely to be left.

After this date, I lost sight of the case until the month of December following. I now found the central portion of the nævus replaced by healthy skin; but around this there was still remaining a ring of the diseased tissue. This ring was not elevated, it gave out no pulsation, its colour was bright red, its diameter was about half an inch, and its rim was not more than a line in breadth.

February 18th, 1839. The spot has extended to the sub-cutaneous tissue, and is again becoming elevated. When pressed with the finger it gives a doughy feel. Its colour in the centre is that of the healthy skin; but in the circumference it is much darker than formerly, and the sub-cutaneous veins extending from it towards the top of the sternum, are fuller and more distended than natural; so much so as to be remarked by the mother herself. She is much concerned lest the spot "should begin to grow more rapidly and bleed, as the vines begin to grow in the spring."

From this case we see the propriety, when it is possible, of removing the whole of the morbid tissue; and we have in it another evidence of the difficulty with which inflammation is brought about in these structures. Had the outer rim of the nævus been sufficiently inflamed by the ligatures, and subsequent ulceration in the centre, the diseased portion would have been altered, and made to assume its normal character as in the first case related. The disease in this case is now clearly connected with the veins.

CASE V.—Miss M. W. when a child, had a nævus on the right side of her forehead. It appeared soon after birth, at first of a faint pinkish hue, which gradually increased to a bright red; it continued to increase for about two years, at which time it was nearly as broad as a quarter of a dollar; it was elevated above the surface, but flattened on the top; and so far as I can recollect, it gave a thrilling motion to the finger. Its degree of turgescence, and its colour varied with the state of the circulation. It remained stationary for a year or so longer, and then began gradually to be effaced. At the end of eight or nine years, the skin had assumed its healthy appearance in colour and structure, and there is now no remaining evidence on the forehead that a nævus had ever existed there.

From this case we learn that these tumours may occasionally disappear spontaneously without ulceration; a fact contrary to the opinion of some writers, and one by no means common: for, though they often become effaced, yet it is exceedingly rare for them to disappear and leave the skin of its natural colour.

CASE VI.—Mr. C., a Scotchman, about 45 years old, in consulting with me for another disease in July, 1838, requested me incidentally to examine his back. I discovered a flattened sub-cutaneous tumour, somewhat irregular on its surface and in its shape; and, to speak within bounds, covering about a square foot along the right lumbar region, and so on up the back and round towards the right side. Towards the centre of the tumour the integuments were involved for about two inches square, and were of a deep purplish colour verging to black. Over the remainder of the swelling, the skin was of its natural colour and texture. The tumour was very yielding and inelastic, like soft sponge, and had no unnatural pulsation. The discoloration in the centre of the swelling had existed since birth; but was,

originally very small. During his youth it extended to the sub-cutaneous tissue, and for a time grew rapidly; but for the last twenty years or more, it has remained stationary. At times it becomes turgid and distended, and then again subsides into its present state. It gives him no inconvenience except when it becomes turgid, and then it is attended with burning and stinging pains.

Nothing but post-mortem inspection could render it more clear, that the tumour in this case was owing to a dilated condition of the capillary veins. The colour, the inelastic spongy feel, the entire absence of pulsation; all show that the minute arteries formed no prominent part of it. In this respect it corresponds with the sub-cutaneous nævus of Wardrop; but it differs from that in having spread originally from the skin to the subjacent cellular tissue.

CASE VII.—In the summer of 1828, a young woman from the country came to town to undergo an operation for a round and prominent swelling of a purplish-black colour, about the size of a wild cherry, on the margin of the lower lip near the left commissure. It had existed there since her infancy. It was removed by two incisions, one on each side of it, running obliquely downwards so as to meet each other beneath its base. The wound in the lip was afterwards drawn together by a suture and adhesive straps. In a few days the parts had become adherent, and the deformity caused by the removal of the V-like flap, was scarcely observable.

This, like the preceding case, is one in which the venous capillaries were chiefly involved; scarcely any portion of the tumour however extended beneath the integuments.

CASE VIII.—The facts of the following case have been generously furnished me by my friend Dr. Alexander Hosack of this city.

Dr. Hosack, about six years since, had charge of an infant four months old, with a congenital nævus on the side of its head. The tumour appeared to be situated wholly beneath the skin. The integuments over it were inflamed, and the tumour was rapidly increasing. It did not appear to pulsate on pressure; it was much elevated, spongy, and easily emptied of its blood; but after removing the pressure it rapidly filled again with a sort of pulsatory action. At the time of attempting its removal, it was about the size of a dollar. It was removed by excision. Brisk hemorrhage followed the operation; before the surgeon or his assistants had time to arrest the bleeding, the infant had swooned, and in ten minutes afterwards it expired.

The nævus in this case was connected with enlargement of the temporal artery, which beat very forcibly; and Dr. H. is of opinion that the tumour was formed by the immediate ramifications of this vessel. A case similar to the preceding is related by Mr. Wardrop. The tumour was sub-cutaneous and situated on the back of the neck. "It was of the form and size of half an ordinary orange," and was rapidly increasing. On the tenth day after its birth, the skin gave way and a profuse hemorrhage followed without reducing the size of the tumour, which felt warmer than the surrounding parts, and was compressible to one-third its ordinary size. "Conceiving the immediate extirpation of this tumour the only chance of saving the

infant," says he, "I removed it as expeditiously as possible, and made the incision of the integuments beyond the boundary of the tumour; aware of the danger of hemorrhage where such tumours are cut into. So profuse however, was the bleeding, that though the whole mass was easily removed by a few incisions, the child expired."*

CASE IX.—An infant about three months old was brought to the New York Hospital to be treated for a swelling on the right side of the neck behind the sterno-mastoid muscle, and just above the clavicle; it was of a flattened ovoid shape, about two inches long, and not quite so broad; it was entirely subcutaneous, and quite moveable; it was easily compressed, had a doughy feel, and was free from all pulsation. The integuments over it were healthy, but had a tinge somewhat darker than natural from the colour of the tumour beneath. The swelling was gradually increasing.

I saw this case but once, and know nothing of the result. It is the only case I have observed to correspond in all respects with the subcutaneous *nævus* of Wardrop.

CASE X.—An infant was brought to the New York Dispensary with a small cutaneous *nævus* on its forehead. The child had not been vaccinated, and the vaccine physician proposed to apply the virus over the *nævus*, stating that he had cured several similar spots in this way—the virus was accordingly inserted, the eruption that followed was smaller than usual, and after its desiccation the *nævus* still persisted.

CASE XI.—Ann Scarlet, *ætat.* 23, admitted into the Cheltenham Hospital, November 17th, 1828, with a congenital *nævus* extending in detached portions on the outer side of the limb from the upper part of the thigh to the extremity of the little toe. When she was about seven years old, the veins of the leg first began to enlarge. At ten or thereabouts, a vein under the *nævus* on the outer side of the knee, gave way; she thus lost sufficient blood to produce fainting; the bleeding was finally arrested by pressure. From this time the limb enlarged rapidly, and every autumn scabs formed on different parts of the *nævus* which ulcerated and bled considerably. In June, 1827, she was married. During her pregnancy the limb increased more rapidly than formerly; and in the centre of the large portion of the *nævus*, after considerable inflammation, an abscess formed and discharged a teacupful of pus mixed with blood. She aborted at the end of the fourth month, and subsequent to this the limb had somewhat diminished.

At the date of her admission, she was pale from the frequent loss of blood, and her form was slender and much emaciated. A considerable portion of the *nævus* on the thigh was in a state of ulceration, and bled at every change of dressing; a similar bleeding ulcer existed near the ankle. The veins of the leg on the outer side of the limb, says Mr. Averill, were in a more varicose state than any he had ever seen; while those on the inner side of the limb were entirely unaffected. The diseased thigh was an inch and a half more in circumference than the other; and the calf of the diseased leg was five inches and a half greater than that of the sound limb. She suffered great pain in the limb, had occasional discharges of blood from the hemorrhoidal veins; and sometimes, when sick, threw up blood from the stomach.

The disorder of the stomach was relieved by the internal use of nitrate of silver, aided by a blister over the epigastrium. Bandages were tried for unloading the veins of the limb, but these were found to be painful and of no avail, and were consequently abandoned. An elastic stocking and thigh-piece, contrived for the occasion, answered a better purpose; the thigh-piece however was not applied until after the ulcer had healed. She continued the use of the apparatus until leaving the hospital, (January 23d, 1829) being restricted, in the mean time, to light and easily digested food. Her general health was now restored; her thigh was reduced to its natural size, and the leg very little larger than the other. The veins were also much diminished in size. She was directed to continue the use of the apparatus.

This is one of the most striking cases I find on record of general dilatation of the *larger veins* of a limb connected with a *nævus*. A case, no doubt of the same kind in which the vessels of the arm and hand were involved to a very great extent, is related by Mr. Abernethy. Mr. Adams has reported some cases in which *nævi*, situated on the tongue, were connected with great enlargement of the veins. This form, he says, "grows slowly and has no pulsation. At other times it assumes a sudden increase of size, particularly in females during the menstrual period."* But as a still more positive proof that the veins are at times extensively involved, we may refer to a preparation of this sort in Guy's Hospital Museum, presented by Sir Astley Cooper.†

CASE XII.—Catharine Micart had two congenital spots of the colour of wine lees, one upon the left ear, and the other on the left parietal region. In the course of a few years the two spots united, and produced considerable tumefaction. About her eleventh year, the tumour began to increase, small openings occurred spontaneously upon it, and gave issue to arterial hemorrhage. A free incision was made into it, from which a great quantity of blood escaped; but this was permanently arrested by pressure, and in a month afterwards the wound had cicatrized. In the mean time the tumour continued to increase. In September, 1805, the patient, then eighteen years old, entered the Hôtel Dieu, in consequence of bleeding produced by a puncture which had been made some days previous at the upper part of the ear.

The tumour at this time occupied the whole of the temporal region, and appeared to be composed of arteries enormously dilated. The ear was red, large, and agitated throughout by pulsations synchronous with those of the heart. At the top of the helix was a cicatrix which gave way at the slightest touch, and the crevice resulting from its rupture furnished a brisk and obstinate hemorrhage; and this was renewed at every attempt to change the dressings. Pressure applied over the temporal artery arrested the movement and pulsation in the anterior part of the tumour. Permanent compression over this vessel was therefore commenced as a means of cure; but

* Dublin Journal, (from the report of the Transactions of the British Association for 1835,) Vol. viii. p. 218.

† Catalogue of the Anatomical Museum of Guy's Hospital. London, 1829, preparation 1538, marked "*Nævus Maternus* of Foot; it consists of a congeries of dilated veins, which are filled with wax.

it was found to be too painful to be continued. M. Pelletan next undertook to secure the temporal and occipital arteries: but in the operation the temporal artery was transfixed, and only partially taken up; and in passing the needle under the occipital artery, blood gushed out from both extremities of the puncture; but after dividing the integuments over it, this vessel was secured, and pulsation ceased in the tumour. Compression was again employed, but it produced a slough, in consequence of which it became necessary to dress the part oftener than usual; at each dressing the hemorrhage recurred; and the pulsation, though less strong than formerly, was renewed. In the course of treatment, constitutional symptoms ensued, erysipelas appeared on the face, an abscess formed in the centre of the tumour, and another over the sternum; the occipital artery bled frequently; and finally, at the end of two weeks from the operation, the patient sunk.

In the *post-mortem examination*, the integuments of the scalp, and of the left ear, were found of their natural structure. There was a cicatrix at the parietal protuberance: behind this, the opening of an abscess; and upon the helix, a small opening filled with clotted blood. Under the skin, from the zygoma and occipital tuberosity up to the top of the head, existed a thick layer of dense cellular tissue infiltrated, or rather interspersed, with small and distinct masses of pus. The cellular tissue of the ear was very red, and was formed by the interlacing of a great number of dilated veins and arteries.

All the arteries comprised in the tumour below this tissue, were dilated, tortuous, and nodulated in a very irregular manner; and filled either with coagulated blood, or with a white thick humour. The temporal artery was dilated and pervious to within an inch of the ligature; that portion of the vessel which had not been included in the ligature formed a fibrous cord at the bottom of the wound. The vessel higher up, and its branches, were enlarged, as before stated; and the branches of the occipital artery were also knotted, tortuous, and dilated.

The arteries throughout the body, according to Dupuytren's testimony, were thinner than natural, and the smaller ones collapsed like veins, from which they were with difficulty distinguished. This wasting of the parietes of the arteries was much more remarkable in the vessels of the fifth or sixth order, than in those of larger size. Purulent depositions were found in the liver; and there were evidences of recent inflammation of the pleura, the lungs being united to the parietes of the chest.

This case has been differently related by Pelletan,* who had charge of it, and by Dupuytren, who furnished an account of it for Breschet's Essay on Aneurism.† It is also related by Boyer‡ and other French writers, and appears to have been the first case that called the attention of the French surgeons to this subject.§ The patient's death may be attributed, not to the

* Clinique Chirurgicale, tome ii. p. 59.

† Mémoires de l'Académie Royale de Médecine, tome iii. p. 154.

‡ Maladies Chirurgicales, ii. p. 374.

§ Pelletan, Clinique Chirurg. tome ii. p. 65. Other cases of this disease, recorded as anomalies, are to be found in the works of several of the older continental writers. One of the most striking and graphic of these is quoted by Boyer, tome ii. p. 378, from the Mém. de l'Acad. des Sciences de Montpellier, tome i. He also refers to cases of the same disease in the writings of Fabricius Hildanus, Severinus, and J. L. Petit.

irritation of the tumour; but rather to the inflammation of the vessels, and the secondary abscess following the operation. It is evidently a case in which the nævus extended from the capillaries, its original seat, to the larger arteries; but that there must have been also some congenital weakness predisposing to this disorder in the arteries, is probable, from facts observed by Dupuytren. Breschet relates a case similar to this, on the right side of the head, in a woman over sixty years of age, who died of exhaustion from frequent hemorrhage. The structure of the tumour was similar to the preceding: "The right carotid was much dilated, tortuous, and three times its natural length. An analogous disposition was observed in the whole course of the aorta; but not to so marked a degree: the same condition was observed in the primitive iliacs, but the vessels of the extremities were natural. In every part where the arteries were dilated and twisted, their parietes were thin, soft, flaccid, and more like the parietes of veins than of healthy arteries."*

Breschet also relates another case of this disease, in which both veins and arteries were enormously dilated. The tumour originated in the left thyroid gland. The patient was a boy about ten years old; and in the course of a year the swelling had grown to be as large as a child's head at birth. An attempt was made to extirpate it; but the violent hemorrhage during the operation deterred the surgeon from proceeding: a metallic ligature was drawn round the base of the tumour, the bleeding was thus arrested; but the child became convulsed, and died in the course of the night. "The thyroid veins, but more especially the arteries, both the upper and lower on the left side, were tortuous, and essentially composed the tumour by their numerous branches, the calibre of which was developed to ten times their natural size."†

The few cases of Telangiectasis now related are sufficient for illustrating its pathology; and when considered in connection with other cases of similar character, recorded by J. Bell, Abernethy, Pelletier, Boyer, Travers, Dalrymple, Wardrop, Lawrence, Marshall Hall, Macilwain, Roux, Breschet, Dupuytren, Bushe, and others,‡ we have a collection of facts sufficient for establishing its various forms, as well as its identity, under the variety of names and arbitrary distinctions that have hitherto been assigned to it.

How much soever then the morbid structures denominated nævi materni, aneurisms from anastomosis, pulsating vascular tumours, varicose tumours, bloody tumours, erectile tumours, angiectasis, telangiectasis, &c. may differ

* Mémoires de l'Académie Royale de Médecine, tome iii. p. 177.

† Ibid. p. 133.

‡ Rayer, *Maladies de la Peau*, tome ii. p. 664, refers to an extensive paper on this subject by Claudius Tarral, in the *Archives Générales de Médecine* for 1834. This I have not as yet been able to obtain.

from one another in their symptoms and progress, they all essentially depend upon a preternatural and irregular development of the minute blood-vessels; the disease in most cases, if not in all, occurring primarily in the capillaries, from which, in progressing, it may extend to vessels of much greater size.

That the capillaries are the vessels primarily affected, is sufficiently established by the fact that when the disease is effectually arrested in its early stages, either by excision or otherwise, the morbid growth is invariably prevented from extending to the larger trunks; and that in those cases where the vascular development never progresses to the formation of a tumour, but produces merely a discoloration without any elevation on the surface of the skin, no other vessels than the capillaries are involved. I do not find an instance to show that the dilatation ever progresses from the larger to the smaller vessels; but, on the contrary, the disease, commencing in the capillaries, may extend to all the vessels of a limb, or even to the largest vessels of the body.

This mode of progression is of some importance in showing that the dilatation of the capillaries is an active state, and not the result of passive distention. These minute vessels, so to speak, draw the blood towards themselves, and call upon the larger vessels immediately beyond them for an increase of action; and hence the gradual and progressive development of the latter from their extremities upwards. It is also of further importance in pointing out the distinction between the dilated condition of the larger vessels in this disease, and that which is observed in aneurism proper; the one being the result of actual growth; the other of inflammation, ulceration, or of passive dilatation. It might indeed be argued in favour of the passive dilatation of the vessels in this disease, that their parietes are sometimes thinner than natural; but this is not invariably the case, and never to such a degree as to allow their calibre to be dilated to ten times its natural dimensions, much less to allow the whole vessel to be increased to more than three times its natural length. In the case No. 3. the parietes of the vessels were rather thickened than attenuated. The disease, indeed, admits of an increased thickness of the parietes as well as an increase of calibre, and an increase in the length of the vessels. In this respect the vessels of the morbid tissue resemble those of some of the normal structures, which, under peculiar circumstances, undergo an active development, as in the vessels of the impregnated uterus, or in those that supply the stag's horns during their rapid evolution.

The period at which the disease may extend from the capillaries to the larger vessels, and take on a rapid development, differs greatly in different cases; in some commencing almost immediately after birth, in others a few months later, or at any time during childhood, adolescence, or afterwards. In the majority of cases, perhaps, the disease never extends to the larger vessels at all; but after existing in the form of an elevated and discoloured spot on the surface of the body, as the individual grows up, this finally shri-

vels; and sinks to the level of the skin, and afterwards exists as a mere discoloration; or even the discoloration may be effaced, and the skin present its natural appearance. The size, colour, and turgescence of these tumours, vary materially with the state of the general circulation. It is stated that they are more apt to take on a rapid growth about the period of puberty than at any other age; but after referring to the history of a great number of these cases, I am satisfied they are no more liable to active development at this, than at any earlier period.

The same class of vessels may be involved, and the same train of symptoms may follow, whether the disease be congenital, or induced at any period subsequent to both; and hence the particular period of life at which it first becomes manifest, affords no sufficient reason for establishing the pathological distinctions which some have attempted between *nævus maternus* proper, and aneurism from anastomosis; or between the congenital and the accidental *nævus*.

These vascular growths possess but a very low degree of vitality. Dupuytren, in comparing them with the erectile tissues of normal character, states that their supply of nervous influence is small. Their sensibility indeed bears no proportion to their supply of blood; they are not easily irritated or inflamed; and when once inflamed they have a tendency to slough; and where mortification does not ensue, the inflammation does not readily extend itself to the surrounding parts of the diseased tissue, and is slow in passing through its several stages. In the case first related, the potential and even the actual cautery were several times employed without exciting actual inflammation to any extent around the immediate spot upon which they were applied. The same amount of irritation in any of the normal tissues receiving an equal or any approach to an equal supply of blood, would have excited much more acute and extensive inflammation. Are we not then justified in concluding from this fact, that something more than great vascularity is requisite for inducing inflammatory action even in the healthy tissues? These, under a given supply of nervous influence, in proportion as their vascularity is augmented, have their irritability exalted, first within the range of health, but beyond this, to the production of morbid sensibility and actual disease. We are told that in the bones and other white tissues, inflammation is not readily induced, because their supply of blood is small. Might we not also add, because their supply of nerves is equally deficient? Where nervous influence is weak, then, even in the most vascular tissues, inflammation is not easily excited, nor is it so active in its progress, or so apt to spread, as under other circumstances. If these points be admitted, (and the facts above noted are sufficient to establish them,) the agency of the nerves, in determining the phenomena of inflammation, will be rendered more manifest, and shown to be of more importance, than has hitherto been generally acknowledged.

Breschet* and others, admit that the disease under consideration, may manifest itself in almost every tissue of the body. "It is developed," says Dupuytren, "in all parts of the body, but most frequently in the lips, doubtless in consequence of their spongy and vascular structure. It has been met with on the arm, fore-arm, thigh, scalp, ear, cheek, and organs of generation; in the tissue of the skin, in the muscles, the periosteum, the bones, the kidney, the liver, &c."† One case is recorded by Cruveilhier, and another by Pelletan, in which this disease is said to have originated in the brain.‡

Without questioning these authorities, I must nevertheless observe, that in most of the cases on record bearing intrinsic evidence of belonging to the disease under consideration, the morbid growth has had its origin either in the common integuments, the mucous membrane, or in the cellular tissue. Doubtless it may originate in other textures, as in the case quoted from Breschet, where it commenced in the thyroid gland; but many of the cases in which it is said to have occurred in the bones, in the viscera, among the muscles, &c., are, to say the least, equivocal; and no doubt some of them were of a carcinomatous nature.

The various forms of telangiectasis may be divided; first, *in relation to their seat*—into the cutaneous, the subcutaneous, and the mixed; secondly, *in relation to the class of vessels affected*—into those involving the capillaries only, those extending to the arteries, and those extending to the veins.

1st. *Of the Cutaneous Nevus.*—This is the simplest form, and the one best known to the profession. It is almost invariably congenital, and is manifest either at birth, or within a few days afterwards. In some few instances, however, it originates spontaneously at a much later period. A few years ago, I observed for the first time a bright red spot, on my own face. For a length of time it appeared to be a mere point; this gradually increased in size, and two or three similar points, not quite so superficial, were to be ob-

* Mémoires de la Académie Royale de Médecine, tome iii. p. 128. In his essay published in this work, Breschet refers to the Répertoire d'Anatomie, tome i. for 1826, in which he records a case of this disease originating in the bone. This case I have not the means of referring to, but I am informed by my friend John Hamilton, Esq. of Dublin, that after studying Breschet's case attentively, and the cases which he quotes from Dupuytren and others, as aneurism by anastomosis in the bone; he is convinced they were of malignant character, "obviously fungus hematodes"—and his opinion is confirmed by a similar avowal, made to him in relation to the same cases, by Mr. Hodgson of Birmingham. The impression existing in France, even up to the present time, in relation to these two very distinct forms of disease, is sufficient to account for Breschet's misapplication of the term "aneurism by anastomosis,"—and the same may also apply to some of the cases of erectile tumours of Dupuytren. Dr. Bushe, I conceive, has committed a similar error in a case which he relates as telangiectasis originating in the medullary cavity of the tibia. The case has to me more of the character of the malignant fungus. See the New York Medico-Chirurgical Bulletin, vol. i. p. 59.

† Leçons Orales de Clinique Chirurgicale, tome iv. p. 51.

‡ Mentioned by Bushe. Loco citat. p. 65, from Cruveilhier, Anatomie Pathologique, tome ii. p. 133—83. Pelletan, Clinique Chirurg. tome ii. p. 76.

served about it; the whole giving a slight elevation to the skin, and feeling like a little pimple or fine grain of sand under the finger. Some months ago I punctured the principal spot with the point of a needle. It bled for half an hour, and continued dripping slowly afterwards for several hours; the single puncture must have given exit to more than two drachms of blood; and since that time the spot has somewhat diminished.

These *nævi* are, at birth, unattended with any tumefaction; but as the child grows the discoloration spreads, and sometimes the spot becomes elevated above the level of the skin. Continuing to increase, it demands an additional supply of blood, and the vessels leading to it are consequently increased in size, and the temperature of the part is greater than natural.

The cutaneous *nævus* has rarely a strong pulsatory movement, but still a feeble thrill may be at times very perceptible on pressure. After continuing to spread for some time, it may become stationary; and finally, falling to the level of the skin, exist afterwards as a mere stain upon the surface; or continuing to increase, it extends to the subjacent tissue, and thus constitutes what may be called the mixed form.

2d. Of the Mixed Nævus.—The subcutaneous cellular tissue becoming involved, the disease now produces more deformity, elevating the integuments in the form of a soft bosselated tumour. The original cutaneous spot still exists in the centre; but the rest of the swelling is marked by no discoloration, or at most, only a faint tinge of purple or red; caused by the colour of the subcutaneous portion of the tumour striking through the healthy integuments. The swelling now communicates a whizzing or vibratory movement to the finger when pressed upon; the blood is easily forced out of it; but, on removing the pressure, the swelling soon regains its former size. The veins in the neighbourhood of the tumour are sometimes observed to be much fuller and larger than natural, and the arteries also in some cases beat strongly over a great extent of surface. The integuments occasionally ulcerate, and the patient is then subject to hemorrhage from the slightest abrasion of the surface. Sometimes the whole tumour, ulcerating or becoming inflamed, sloughs away, and a spontaneous cure is the consequence.

3d. Of the subcutaneous Nævus.—This possesses all the characteristics of the last, except that it does not originate in the skin, or even extend to it. This swelling, too, is moveable at first, and appears to be covered by a proper coat of dense cellular tissue. The pulsation in it is not generally very strong, and sometimes is not to be felt at all. The irritation produced by it among the surrounding tissues, as in the case of the mixed *nævus*, may excite inflammation, ulceration, or even destructive action; and these morbid changes extending to the surface, necessarily give rise to frequent hemorrhage; or progressing in other directions, injure or destroy the muscles, fasciæ, and even the bones themselves.

The divisions of telangiectasis founded on the particular class of vessels involved, are the most proper for illustrating the anatomical structure of the various tumours grouped under this head.

Telangiectasis of the Capillaries.—It is probable that in the majority of these spots, whether cutaneous or deep-seated, the minute arteries and veins next in order above the capillaries, are also more or less affected. It is only therefore in cases where important vessels participate in the disease, that we must refer the tumour from this to the other varieties. When the capillary nævus is examined, it is found to be seated sometimes in the venous, sometimes in the arterial portion of these vessels, and sometimes affecting both. Its colour is modified according to these circumstances, being of a brighter or darker hue, according as the arterial or venous blood prevails in it. When the swelling is cutaneous, the vessels themselves constitute the great mass of the nævus; for here the cellular tissue is not found in sufficient quantity to form any important portion of it. But when the tumour lies in the loose tissues beneath the surface, the enlarged and elongated capillaries are bound together by a matrix of cellular tissue; and they are often so much dilated and contorted as to form irregular cells of themselves. Some have indeed described them as being composed of cells into which enlarged vessels enter. "The tumour," says Bell, "is composed of small and active arteries, absorbing veins, and intermediate cells. The irritated and incessant action of the arteries fills the cells with blood: from these cells it is re-absorbed by the veins: the extremities of the veins themselves perhaps dilate into this cellular form."* Mr. Wardrop in describing a subcutaneous nævus, states that "the boundaries of the tumour appeared distinct, some healthy cellular membrane surrounding it, which was traversed by blood-vessels. On tracing these vessels to the diseased mass, they penetrated into a spongy structure composed of numerous cells and canals of a variety of forms and sizes, all of which were filled with the injection, and communicated directly with the ramifications of the vessels." Several of the vessels, he states, from the thinness of their coats, appeared to be veins much enlarged,—and some of them sufficiently big to admit a full sized bougie. "These cells and canals had a smooth and polished surface, and in some parts resembled very much the cavities of the heart, fibres crossing them in various directions like the columnæ tendinæ."† More recent observers state that this cellular appearance is deceptive, produced by the particular mode in which the tumours have been examined, and by the irregular shape, size and course of the vessels themselves. That they are almost entirely composed of arteries and veins, has been proved by Mr. Sheckleton, who injected them with wax, and afterwards corroded the soft materials, so as to show the true form and course of these vessels.‡

* Principles of Surgery. By John Bell, vol. iii. p. 386. London, 1826.

† Medico-Chirurg. Transact. vol. ix. p. 204.

‡ See a notice of Mr. Sheckleton's preparations, Dublin Journal, vol. viii. p. 219.

Telangiectasis extending to the larger Arteries.—In many of the cases on record, the larger vessels have become diseased only after the capillaries have existed in a morbid condition for a number of years. In other cases, however, there appears to have been a congenital weakness of these vessels, co-existent with an evident disease in the capillaries: such was probably the fact in some of the cases of Breschet to which I have already alluded. The diseased arteries are sometimes simply dilated; sometimes they present great irregularity as to their calibre, their length, and the thickness of their parietes; and in almost all cases they are convoluted, or rolled upon themselves; sometimes constituting a mesh of vessels united together by cellular tissue, so as to present a soft fluctuating and pulsating tumour, which, by its growth and constant action, produces disturbance in the surrounding parts; sometimes winding along the limb in an irregular course, as in varix of the lower extremities, without forming any distinct tumour, or congeries of vessels. It has been supposed that the vessels in this disease form more frequent anastomoses than in their healthy state; such, however, has not been proved to be the fact, and some who have written on this subject, have denied it.

Telangiectasis extending to the larger Veins.—Instances of the disease extending more particularly to the veins than to the arteries, are by no means frequent. The veins, it is true, are generally enlarged in cases where the arteries are dilated; but not to so great an extent. Case X. is an instance of this disease in which the veins were principally affected. The appearances presented are nearly the same as in ordinary varix.

Diagnosis.—The diseases with which telangiectasis is most liable to be confounded, are different according as it is superficial or deep-seated, and according as it affects the capillaries only, or extends from these to the larger arteries or veins. It may be mistaken for aneurism proper; for varix; for aneurism by erosion, or the aneurism of Pott as it has been called by the French; for cephalæmatoma or the bloody tumour occurring on the head of new-born infants; for encysted or other non-malignant tumours; and for fungus hematodes.

With aneurism proper, Breschet has indeed grouped one of the forms of this disease, viz. that in which the dilatation is extended to the arterial trunks, calling this the *cylindroid* aneurism when the calibre of the artery is dilated regularly, and *circoid* aneurism when the dilatation is irregular and the vessel tortuous and nodulated. But the gradual progress of the disease from the smaller to the larger vessels, the co-existence of nævi from which the dilated vessels appear to emanate, the want of coagula in the dilated trunks, their tortuosity, and the irregularity in the thickness of their parietes, independent of inflammation, ulceration, rupture, or cartilaginous or earthy deposit; not to speak of the age and class of patients most frequently affected; may be sufficient to characterize this disorder. But in those persons, in whom the parietes of the arteries are thinner than natural, it is pro-

bable that causes, insufficient to excite proper aneurism under ordinary circumstances, might here induce it; and thus the two disorders might be found co-existing in the same subject. Again, in some cases of aneurismal varix, the disturbance in the circulation, produced by the unnatural communication between the artery and vein, may lead to irregular dilatation, twisting and elongation of these vessels. But in all such cases the causes of these changes must be sufficiently apparent.

The varicose state of the veins produced by stasis of blood, or by interrupted circulation in these vessels, as seen in the lower extremities, and sometimes in other parts, (as in the spermatic cord,) might be mistaken for this disease. The freedom from cutaneous nævi or from pulsating tumours, the age and habit of the patient affected with varix, its seat, and its exciting cause, are sufficient to distinguish it. The disease sometimes called Pott's disease of the leg; sometimes the aneurism of Pott, or aneurism by erosion of the artery, may be mistaken for some of the severer forms of telangiectasis. Cases of the disease now referred to, are given by Pelletan,* Hodgson,† and others: and as I have never verified it by dissection, I must refer to Potts' original description of it.‡

The only case of cephalæmatoma, that has fallen under my observation, might have readily been mistaken for a subcutaneous nævus. The tumour was seated over the sagittal suture, was as large as a pullet's egg—it existed at birth, and the integuments over it were of their natural character. The tumour, however, did not throb; and though it had a soft doughy and inelastic feel, it could not be diminished by pressure; and no enlarged vessels were observed in its neighbourhood.§

The subcutaneous nævus may be mistaken for encysted and other tumours. The thrilling or pulsatory movement of the nævus, the ease with which it may be diminished by pressure, and its almost immediate return to its former size when the pressure is removed, will distinguish it from these.

In some cases of superficial nævus where the integument has ulcerated, and the disease is shooting forth in the form of a spongy tissue, bleeding at the slightest touch, it may be difficult to distinguish it from fungus hæmatodes. But the early history of the case, the strictly local character of the disease, its continuance for years without involving the general health further than by the loss of blood which it may occasion, or by the pressure and consequent disturbance which it may cause in the adjacent tissues; the absence of carcinomatous growths in other parts of the system, and the im-

* Clinique Chirurgicale, tome ii. p. 37. et seq.

† Treatise on Diseases of the Arteries and Veins, p. 448, et seq.

‡ Surgical Works, vol. ii. p. 321. Philadelphia, 1819.

§ See Bushe's paper on "Hæmatoma of the head in new-born children," in the New York Medico-Chirurgical Bulletin, July, 1831. Also, a monograph on the same subject, by Prof. E. Geddings, in the American Journal of the Medical Sciences for Feb. 1839.

munity of the patient from all chance of its recurrence after having been once fairly removed; are sufficient to distinguish it from fungus hematodes.

Causes.—Boyer has divided this disease into two kinds, the one congenital, the other accidental. In the great majority of cases the derangement in the vascular structure which constitutes this disease, is attributable to a primitive defect in the organization of the capillary vessels, and perhaps also in some of the vessels of larger size. That form of telangiectasis which involves the arteries, and which is marked by strong pulsation, and rapid and obstinate growth, is, I believe, the only one that has been described as occasionally resulting from local injuries. Travers and Dalrymple recite cases in which this form occurred spontaneously within the orbit in females during pregnancy. Long continued pressure, severe blows, and various kinds of local irritation, have been advanced among the exciting causes.

Prognosis.—The danger to be apprehended from *nævi* varies with their size, their seat, the class of vessels principally involved, and the rapidity of their growth. When confined to the skin, unless undergoing rapid development, or becoming ulcerated, they require no special attention. When seated in the subcutaneous cellular tissue, or when they extend to this from the surface, and especially when the vessels leading to them are much enlarged, they never entirely subside of themselves; they may continue to grow for years, and then either become stationary, or by exciting irritation in the surrounding tissues, produce caries of the bones, or ulceration of the soft parts; and by frequent and profuse hemorrhage, finally exhaust the patient.

Treatment.—The treatment applicable to the different forms of telangiectasis has, within the last thirty years, been the subject of much speculation and experiment. Without attempting to dwell upon the various operations that have been suggested, and all of which have been practised with more or less success, we may remark, that they have hitherto been devised for fulfilling either one or more of the following objects:

1st. To prevent the undue ingress of blood, and thus to allow the morbid growth to contract to its natural condition.

2d. To remove the diseased tissue, and to allow the wound or ulcer, thus left, to cicatrize.

3d. To induce a change of action in the diseased tissue, by which it may be consolidated and deprived of its undue supply of blood, and thus allowed to assume its natural appearance and character.

The means employed for fulfilling the first of these objects, are, for the most part *mechanical*; and act either by compressing or constricting the diseased vessels, or by cutting off the channels through which they are principally supplied with blood. The means for fulfilling the second object, are *destructive*: among them are grouped excision, caustic and corroding applications, and the ligature *en masse*. Those for effecting the third object are *physiological*, and have been instituted for exciting inflammation and the

consequent effusion of coagulable lymph within the diseased structure; and thus, on the subsidence of the inflammation, to reduce the vascularity of the part. Among these means may be enumerated, 1st, the introduction of the cataract needle for lacerating the central portion of the tumour: 2d, the introduction of heated needles: 3d, vaccination and the production of artificial pustules immediately over the diseased mass: 4th, injection of stimulating liquids among the diseased vessels; and, lastly, the introduction of the seton beneath them.

1st. By Compression.—This is rarely or never employed for removing the cutaneous nævus; and for the deeper forms it is generally a tedious and uncertain means of cure. Bell has stated that compression tends rather to aggravate than to remove these swellings; yet in the hands of Pelletan, Boyer, Roux, and Dupuytren, this mode of treatment has been occasionally successful. A striking example of its efficacy is related by Boyer. His patient, an infant, had a pulsating tumour near the lower part of the septum of the nose; the position being such as to prevent complete extirpation, he advised the mother to foment the tumour with alum water, and to press it between the thumb and finger as often as she could. I attached, says he, but little importance to this advice. It was followed, nevertheless, with all the perseverance that maternal tenderness could inspire, the mother often spending seven hours at a time in compressing the spot without removing her fingers. This perseverance was followed by success so complete that in August, 1809, having been consulted anew concerning this young person, now twelve years old, it was impossible, he observes, to recognize any remains of the tumour.*

2d. By Pressure and Cold combined.—This practice was first instituted by Abernethy. Finding that, in some forms of the deep nævus, the temperature of the swelling was greater than natural, he concluded that the disease was owing to “a kind of inflammatory action of the surrounding arteries,” and therefore resorted to these means as the most applicable for diminishing the tumour and reducing this action. His first case was one of mixed nævus, complicated with great enlargement of the vessels over the hand and forearm. A manytailed bandage of sticking plaster was applied over the limb, and the whole kept moist with cold water. Whatever we may think of the pathology upon which this practice is founded, we cannot question its success. In six months from the time of commencing treatment, the disease was cured. He relates another case treated successfully by cold alone. The nævus projected from the orbit, closing the eye, and forming a tumour as large as a walnut. “Pressure, to any extent was here evidently impossible; but the abstraction of heat, and consequent diminution of inflammatory action, might be attempted.” He therefore recommended “that folded linen wet with rose water saturated with alum, should be bound on

* *Maladies Chirurgicales*, tome ii. p. 369. Paris, 1831.

the projected part, and kept constantly damp." At the end of three months the tumour had shrunk within the orbit, and the child could open its eye.*

3d. By Ligature to the Artery supplying the Tumour.—This process is applicable only to those severe forms of nævus or aneurism from anastomosis in which other means have failed, and in which the disease has extended from the capillaries to the larger vessels, particularly to the arteries. Pelletan was the first to institute this practice. His case I have already quoted—(see Case XI.) The carotid artery was first successfully taken up for the cure of this disease by Mr. Travers;† afterwards by Mr. Dalrymple;‡ and since these operations several other successful cures have been recorded. In not a few instances, however, this practice has been unsuccessful in removing the disease; and in several cases it has been the immediate cause of death.—Bushe relates a case of extensive and increasing nævus in an infant between six and seven weeks old, for the cure of which, without attempting any other previous treatment, he took up the common iliac artery. The child lived about five weeks after the operation.§ Judging from the cases on record, in which the larger arteries have been taken up for the cure of these tumours, we may fairly conclude that much harm has been done by rashly resorting to this practice; that it should never be attempted until other means have failed; and then, only when the urgency of the case is sufficient to warrant it. The danger of operations on the brachial or femoral artery, or their immediate branches, for pulsating nævi, is not usually so great as operations on the carotid, or the larger vessels of the trunk. But even operations on the large vessels of the limbs are sometimes insufficient to arrest the growth of these tumours. Mr. Lawrence relates a case of aneurism by anastomosis on the finger in a woman twenty-one years old; the disease was congenital. In 1815, Mr. Hodgson, finding that the beating could be arrested by pressure on the radial and ulnar arteries, attempted to cure the disease by tying these vessels. The immediate consequences of the operation were a cessation of the beating, collapse of the swelling, and relief from the pain; but these symptoms all recurred in a few days, and were just as bad as before. Mr. Lawrence finally cured the patient by making a circular incision through all the soft parts of the finger above the tumour, excepting the flexor tendons with their theca and the extensor tendon; and afterwards allowing the wound to heal as an ordinary cut. In this case the digital artery was found equal in size to the radial or ulnar of an adult, and was the principal nutrient vessel of the disease.||

4th. By Excision.—The mode of destroying nævi by excision was recommended and practised by J. L. Petit, and has been in general use ever since

* Abernethy's *Surgical Works*, vol. ii. p. 37. Hartford, 1825.

† *Medico-Chirurg. Transactions*, vol. ii. p. 1.

‡ *Ibid.* vol. vi. p. 111.

§ *New York Medico-Chirurgical Bulletin*, vol. i. p. 54.

|| *Medico-Chirurg. Transac.* vol. ix. p. 216.

his time. In the cutaneous nævus, of no great size, it is the most effectual, the readiest, and least painful practice. It is not, however, applicable to very large nævi. In the subcutaneous nævus it has been followed by fatal hemorrhage; and it is altogether improper in those forms of the disease which are complicated with extensive dilatation of the larger vessels. In resorting to excision for the removal of these tumours, in order to avoid hemorrhage as much as possible, it is important to carry the incision through the healthy tissues surrounding them, and not into the diseased mass.

5th. By Caustic Applications.—In the small cutaneous nævus, where a slight and single application of caustic may be sufficient to destroy the spot, as in the spider nævus; and especially when such spots are situated on parts of the body where the cicatrix left by the application may not disfigure the individual, this practice may be employed with advantage. It is rarely advisable in extensive nævi, never in those that are deep-seated, or connected with enlargement of their nutrient vessels. Dr. Hosack informs me that he has seen the caustic potassa applied to a small nævus on the side of the nose, and the effect of it was so severe as to completely destroy the cartilage, and expose the cavity of the nostril. The great objection to the use of caustic applications is, that the extent to which they act can never be precisely regulated. When applied cautiously they often fail in effecting a cure; and sometimes, merely destroying a part of the morbid tissue, they allow of fungous growth and frequent hemorrhage from the part remaining.*

Various caustic applications have been used, as quick lime and soap in equal parts,† the butter of antimony,‡ potassa,§ nitrate of silver, the mineral acids, tartar emetic ointment. In short, any corroding application may be employed for the purpose.

6th. By the Ligature en masse.—The application of ligatures for the purpose of arresting the circulation in these tumours, and allowing them to slough, was suggested, if not practised, by J. Bell. Pelletan has also recorded a case in which he applied it;|| but the attention of the profession was first particularly directed to this important means, by the success attending it in the hands of Mr. Anthony White.¶ It is applicable to the elevated and

* Boyer, *Maladies Chirurgicales*, tome ii. p. 395. Paris, 1834.

† Recommended by Callisen. See Cooper's Dictionary.

‡ Pelletan, tome ii. p. 76, states that, while he was a pupil, he had seen this caustic application used, in a severe case of varicose tumour of the head, by M. Moreau. The patient died; and, on examination, it was found that the pressure of the tumour, growing from within, had produced an obliteration of the frontal bone, and through the openings in the bone the corroding liquid had entered, and excited extensive inflammation of the dura mater and parts within the skull.

§ Used by Pelletan, tome ii. p. 69. Mr. Wardrop, however, has the credit of being the first to employ this and the nitrate of silver extensively and with success.

|| Loco citato, p. 71.

¶ *Medico-Chirurg. Transac.* vol. xiii. p. 444. See also this Journal, vol. ii. p. 220.

subcutaneous nævus. The ligature should be introduced doubled, by means of a needle, under the base of the nævus, and should be drawn sufficiently tight to arrest the circulation in every part of the diseased tissue. The principal inconvenience attending it, is the excessive pain, (which is sometimes so severe as to excite convulsions,) after the ligature has been tightened.—In cases where the tumour is entirely subcutaneous, much of this suffering may be avoided by the practice recommended by Mr. Liston, which consists in dividing the integuments by a crucial incision over the swelling, dissecting back the flaps, and applying the ligature around the base of the tumour without including the skin.* The ligature is generally allowed to remain until the nævus has sloughed; but in some instances it has succeeded, even though removed before disorganization had commenced.†

7th. *By Lacerating the Morbid Tissue.*—This practice was introduced, and successfully employed, by Dr. Marshall Hall;‡ and has succeeded in other hands. It consists in puncturing the nævus with a cataract needle, and carrying the blade of the instrument in various directions through the tumour. After withdrawing the needle, pressure is to be applied for forcing the blood out of the diseased part. The inflammation following this process is in some cases sufficient to effect a cure without causing a cicatrix, or leaving any deformity. It is applicable to the cutaneous, the small subcutaneous, and the mixed nævus.

8th. *By Vaccination and Factitious Eruptions.*—Vaccination for the purpose of exciting inflammation in these spots, was first proposed by Mr. Hodgson;§ and in some cases of cutaneous nævus it is sufficient to effect a cure. The virus should be introduced at several points around the base and over the surface. Where vaccination has already been performed, and the patient is no longer susceptible of its influence, Mr. Young, of Glasgow,|| has recommended antimonial ointment, with the view of producing an eruption, and effecting a cure in the same way as with the vaccine virus.

9th. *By the Caутery Needles.*—The first notice I find of this practice is in a case in which Mr. Macilwain employed it unsuccessfully. The case was one of subcutaneous nævus. He endeavoured to excite inflammation by passing red hot needles through its substance. "These measures were repeated thrice at intervals of about a week; each puncture was followed by a single jet of arterial blood, and produced considerable constitutional disturbance, which continued for about twenty-four hours; but they were followed by no diminution of the tumour, which, on the contrary, increased slowly but pro-

* British and Foreign Medical Review, vol. iii. p. 557.

† Lawrence, in the Medico-Chirurg. Transac. vol. xiii. p. 436.

‡ London Medical Gazette, vol. vii. p. 677.

§ Medico-Chirurgical Review, July, 1827, p. 280. See also this Journal for April, 1828, p. 170. Also, Lancet, vol. xii. p. 604 and 760, and London Med. Gaz. vol. iv. p. 32.

|| Glasgow Medical Journal, vol. i. p. 93. See also this Journal, vol. ii. p. 460, and vol. xv. p. 251.

gressively.”* The late Dr. Bushe† has reported several successful cases of small cutaneous nævi treated in this way; but in the case which I have related at the commencement, he had completely failed. In his published cases he recommends a common cataract needle heated to whiteness; he afterwards employed a fine piece of steel, with a blunt point, and mounted on a handle. The great objection against these small cautery needles is, that they do not retain their temperature for a sufficient time; they lacerate rather than cauterize the tumour, and do not excite inflammation to any great extent around the immediate point at which they are introduced.

10th. *By Injection.*—So far as I am aware, Mr. Samuel Cooper first proposed this practice. It was first successfully employed by Mr. Lloyd.‡ The injection consisted of from three to six drops of nitric acid dissolved in a drachm of water; it was thrown into the tumour, by means of a syringe, through a minute puncture near its base. During the operation careful pressure was made in all directions round the tumour, to prevent the fluid from entering the general circulation. The next case on record, in which this practice was employed, was attended with an instantaneously fatal result.§

11th. *By the Seton.*—For this practice we are indebted to Mr. Faudington of Manchester.|| It has also been employed with marked success by Mr. Macilwain, in cases of deep nævus, where no other mode of treatment could have been advantageously employed. It has also succeeded, under similar circumstances, in the hands of Mr. Carmichael,¶ M. Lallemand,** and in Dr. A. H. Stevens's case, which I have already reported. It does not appear to answer so well for the cutaneous nævi as for those that are situated in the tissues beneath the skin. In resorting to this practice the seton should be passed completely under the tumour, and not into its spongy texture; otherwise it ulcerates through the morbid mass before exciting inflammation sufficient to consolidate it. In the cases reported by Mr. Macilwain, as well as in that of Mr. Carmichael, several setons, consisting of silk threads, were passed in different directions under the swelling; in Dr. Stevens's case, a single seton only was employed; and in all of them the threads were allowed to remain until free suppuration was established, and the tumour itself had undergone a change of character; a process which, under different circumstances, may require for its completion from a few weeks to three or four months. The advantages of this practice are, that it is attended with little or no danger; that it may be employed in many cases where other means are inadmissible, and that no permanent deformity is left by it.

* *Medico-Chirurg. Transac.* vol. xviii. p. 193.

† *New York Medico-Chirurgical Bulletin*, No. 2.

‡ *London Med. Gazette*, vol. xix. p. 14, Oct. 1st, 1836.

§ *Ibid.* Dec. 30th, 1837.

|| See Mr. Macilwain's paper in the *Medico-Chirurg. Transac.* vol. xviii. p. 189.

¶ See a notice of Mr. Carmichael's case in the *Dublin Journal*, vol. viii. p. 219.

** *Observations Relatives à Divers Procédés Opératoires employés contre les Tumeurs Erectiles*: republished from the *Archives Générales de Médecine*.

ART. III. Chronic Cerebral Affection: long continued, intense headache: double consciousness: extraordinary memory of events: inefficacy of treatment: diagnosis doubtful. By ELISHA BARTLETT, M. D., Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic, and Pathological Anatomy in Dartmouth College.

THE following case has appeared to me to be one of sufficient importance to justify me in presenting it to the public. The report of it may possibly seem to the reader to be unnecessarily prolix and minute, but I did not see how it could well be made less so, without sacrificing that completeness, and fulness of detail, upon which the interest, and the value itself, of the case depends. The present would be a very proper place for some general remarks on the subject of chronic cerebral disease. There is no single department of pathology, which offers to the scientific inquirer problems so surrounded with difficulties, and yet so filled with interest as this, but as the report of the case occupies so much room, I shall simply present it to the reader, omitting, at least for the present, all note or comment, either upon the case itself or upon the general subject to which it belongs.

April 10th, 1838.—R. M——, the subject of this case, was 15 years old in October, 1837. She was born in England, and came to this country about seven years ago. She has a fair complexion, light hair, is considerably fleshy and fat, and has a pretty large, well developed head. She is good tempered, and is intelligent for a girl of her age and education. She enjoyed uniform and excellent health, till she was thirteen years old. She then menstruated, and at that time began to complain of *headache*, and of pain in the back and limbs. The pain in the back and limbs soon went off, but the headache continued. During the first year it was not constant, although she had more or less of it nearly every day. This pain gradually became more constant and more severe, and since the close of the first year, she has never for a single moment, so far as can be ascertained, been free from it. Until the expiration of the first year, she was able to work part of the time in a woollen mill, and a part of the time she was at school, although she was frequently obliged to leave both her work and her school on account of the severity of the headache. The seat of the pain has always been through the head, from the forehead to the occipital. She never feels it at the top or at the sides of the head. It never changes its seat; it never intermits. It has not done so for the last year. It is very much more severe at some times than at others. Generally, though not invariably, it grows worse as the day progresses.

There has been moderate intolerance of light and sound from the beginning. This is pretty regularly increased in degree with the increased severity of the pain. It is never, however, excessive. The vision has not

been much affected. It is rather feeble, but correct. On looking steadily at an object, it grows dim and indistinct. There is frequently some ringing in the ears. The sound oftenest heard is that of running water. Epistaxis has been pretty common for the last year. During the two past weeks, it has occurred every day, and has, some days, been repeated several times. It almost always occurs in the day time, oftenest in the latter part of the day, continues pretty freely five minutes or so, and is never attended or followed by any mitigation of the pain. Within a few weeks she has complained of some numbness of both feet and of both hands: that of the feet is greatest. This numbness comes on several times a day, remains fifteen or twenty minutes, and then goes off. Occasionally she feels a pricking sensation, especially in the hands. Once, some weeks ago, while walking across the floor, she fell.

The mind has been perfectly free, till within six months. She has become somewhat forgetful, but there has not been the slightest aberration. She is remarkably patient and quiet. There is no fretfulness, and no change of temper.

The appetite has been poor from the beginning. The quantity of nutriment which she has taken for the last year has been very small, and it still continues so. There is no emaciation. The bowels are regular, and are easily moved. The discharges are not very consistent, but sufficiently healthy in appearance. There is no flatulence, no acidity, no nausea. The tongue is, most of the time, moderately coated. Thirst is constant and pretty urgent. Nearly all the time there is a sense of chilliness over the body generally. Through the head, corresponding to the seat of the pain, she complains of a burning heat. The hands and feet are constantly cold. They are white and bloodless, looking like alabaster. The scalp feels hot to herself and moderately so to the hand. It is also, occasionally, in various parts tender to the touch. The face is usually flushed, and much more so at some times than at others. The pulse varies from 76 to 100, and is neither full nor hard. The urine, for some weeks last summer, was copious and limpid; since that time it has remained natural. A few weeks ago she had a short, dry cough, which was principally troublesome on account of the great increase of suffering which it occasioned in the head. It seemed to be of a nervous or spasmodic character, and ceased immediately on the administration of Prussic acid. It returned once, subsequently, and again subsided on giving the acid. Up to this time the respiration had not been affected.

She has always had very bad nights. She has distressing, fatiguing dreams: and running through them all, and through her disturbed and unrefreshing slumbers, there is an ever present consciousness of the unremitting and intolerable headache. The vulture never sleeps and never lets go its hold. She lies with one hand constantly to her forehead, and very frequently says in a suppressed, moaning tone, "O dear! my head!" She

speaks in a low voice—usually in a whisper. There is frequent deep sighing, and occasional yawning.

Until within a month she has been able to sit up and to keep about house, during the forenoon. She is now wholly confined to the bed, and is unable to hold up her head without great increase of the pain. She says her head feels very heavy.

Another strong feature in the history of this case, thus far, consisted in the effect of treatment. This was wholly unavailing. It never mitigated the severity of a single symptom. More than this, almost invariably the effect of treatment was to render her worse. The details of the treatment it is unnecessary for me to describe. The depleting, revulsive, sedative and anodyne medications were, one after another, and variously combined, resorted to, and all to no purpose. General and local bloodletting, emetics, active cathartics, blisters, permanent drains in the neck, the cold dash, and mercurials carried to ptyalism, were all made use of. Preparations of iron, quinine, arsenic, opium and other narcotics, were tried in their turns with the same unsatisfactory results.

During the first year and a half, or so, of the disease, I had felt very confident that the case was one of nervous headache merely; that there was functional disturbance,—intense, morbid, painful erethism of the brain, but no structural or organic lesion. Resting in this diagnosis, I had thought, that the patient would finally recover. But the obstinate persistence of all the symptoms, and their gradual increase in severity, notwithstanding the active and various treatment that had been opposed to them, induced me to doubt the correctness of my opinion. I began to suspect, very strongly, the existence of some fixed, organic lesion, in the central portion of the brain, or in the cerebellum. The age of the patient led me to think that the disease might consist of a tubercular tumour. But if this were the case, there should have been, also, tubercular matter deposited in the lungs; and of such desposition there was no evidence depending either upon local signs or general symptoms. There were no indications, physical or rational, of phthisis. The resonance under both clavicles was good, and the vesicular murmur was soft. There was no cough, no expectoration, no pain in the chest, no hectic, no emaciation.

I shall now continue the history of the case from the date of my first records, April 10, 1838, to the present time. For this account I rely upon notes taken, not at every visit, but from time to time, as changes manifested themselves in the condition of the patient.

April 25th.—There has been little or no alteration in the symptoms for the last fortnight. The pulse to-day is 80, soft and feeble. The numbness of the feet is now nearly constant, and when the numbness goes off it is succeeded by a headache. Last night, as usual, she was dreaming of distressing pain in the head.

May 24th.—She is apparently more feeble. She now has, several times a

day, short chills or tremors, consisting of a general and pretty violent shaking of the whole body. They are not accompanied by any increased feeling of coldness. She has, also, frequently during the day, paroxysms, lasting half an hour or so, of rapid breathing, or panting. I counted 72 respirations in a minute. There is a quick, quivering motion of the eyelids and lips. There is occasionally, for a few minutes, loss of consciousness, or something like it. She is awake, but does not know where she is. The thirst is still very great. The tongue is clean, bright red, sore, and frequently bleeds. The bowels are rather sluggish. The right leg is somewhat more numb and painful than the left. Tears are now and then forced from her eyes by the excessive severity of the headache. For some weeks past she has not kept her hand to her forehead: she says she is too weak to do so. Pulse, 72.

May 26th.—The respiration is now quiet and regular. She does not speak, except in the faintest possible whisper, and very reluctantly then. She says that the act of speaking hurts her head—that it feels as though something struck it, like a hammer. The epistaxis continues, and occurs, usually, just at night.

June 9th.—For several days past she has not spoken at all. The only voluntary motion which she makes, consists of a slight movement of the fore finger of one hand, when she wishes for a drink. She does not open her eyelids. When the eyeballs are exposed, they are seen very forcibly rolled up in the sockets, constantly agitated with a rapid tremulous motion. She is unable either to move or to support her head. The head is warm; the hands and feet still pale, cold, and moist. The thirst is still urgent; the urine continues free. She had her menses about a month ago. There has been less epistaxis for several days. She hears very quick, as is evident from her noticing conversation that is carried on in the room. *She does not notice any thing said directly to herself*, but very frequently smiles at remarks directed to some one else. Her mother thinks that she cannot see.

She was visited and examined a few days since by Mrs. T. a somnambulist. Mrs. T. says that the tongue and throat of the patient are sore, for which she must use alum and marsh rosemary: that the head is diseased, but not primarily; and that the original disease is a kind of a cancer,—but not a cancer—situated between the stomach and lungs. She prescribed, further, shaving and blistering the scalp, blisters to the ankles, friction, from the hips downwards, and bathing with brandy.

June 30th.—The patient remains in nearly the same state, except that for about three weeks she has had, pretty regularly every day, and several times a day, the severe rigors or attacks of general shivering. She, also, frequently clenches her hands suddenly together, and throws them violently, with a motion that seems to be half voluntary and half spasmodic, over her

head upon the pillow: This motion is accompanied with an expression in the countenance of great suffering. The hands and arms are invariably suffered by the patient to remain in the position above the head: she never removes them herself. The bowels have occasionally required moving with gentle medicine.

July 12th.—On the 4th July, the patient was found in the morning talking, in a low whisper, to herself. She had not spoken a syllable before for a month. She answered readily, in the same low tone, when spoken to. She said she did not know why she could not talk during the month. She said the pain in the head *was not quite so bad*. She now and then laughs very loudly and heartily without any apparent cause. The violent motion of the arms and hands, already noticed, has become more general, and she throws herself with great force from one side of the bed to the other. These are most common in the afternoon. The shivering fits have occurred most frequently in the forenoon.

It has become perfectly evident, since the patient began to talk, that there are, so far as the brain and its mental manifestations are concerned, two very distinct and different states. One may be called the natural and the other the preternatural condition. During the first she appears very much as she has during the course of the disease. She is then perfectly herself. She lies very quietly upon her back, occasionally sighing, with a quick, half spasmodic inspiration, indicative of pain, and occasionally affected with a short transitory rigor or shudder. Her countenance is composed and sad, but she makes no complaint, unless it is to say, as she frequently does, "*O, my head!*" She answers questions readily, describes all her sensations, and is perfectly conscious of every thing about her. During the preternatural condition, the whole scene is changed, and various phenomena of a character somewhat singular are exhibited. It is during this state, that the fits of throwing herself from one part of the bed to the other occur. It is also during these fits only that she talks, at other times never speaking except to answer a question, or to state somewhat, or to give utterance to the sense of pain. It was observed, by her mother, that when she commenced talking on the morning of the 4th, her conversation was wholly upon subjects with which she was familiar before she left England. It should be stated, that some peculiarities about her memory had been noticed by her mother, for several weeks. She was first confined to her bed, up stairs, and she had subsequently been removed to a lower room. She never could recollect *how* or *when* she came down stairs. On asking her mother, one day, how long her daughter had been confined to her bed, she referred me to the patient herself, and added, that she could tell me how many weeks she had been sick and *how many visits I had made to her*. I questioned her as to the latter point. She answered, immediately,

"*this is the fifty-second.*" On referring to my books, I found forty-eight visits charged, and I had seen her a few times, I cannot say positively how many, without making any charge. I then asked her when Mrs. B. called to see her: she said, "*four weeks ago to-day,*" which was true. The fits of tossing herself violently about, of which I have spoken, continued with but little interruption, for several hours, the day before yesterday. The next day, they commenced at half past five, in the afternoon, and continued five hours. They were present three or four hours in the forenoon of to-day, and they again occurred in the afternoon. During the presence of these paroxysms, day before yesterday, she commenced talking about *the scenes of her early life*. She narrated, minutely, circumstantially, and correctly, a great many occurrences of her earliest childhood. Her mother said she had told almost every thing that happened to her while a child. For instance, *at the age of two years*, her father bought for her a pair of small ear-rings. After wearing them for a short time, they were missing from her ears. She had been at play alone in a yard, or field, near the house, and the parents never knew whether the child had lost the rings from her ears, or whether some one had stolen them. Her father took her in his arms, and carried her into a certain part of the field, which he distinctly recollects, to endeavour to find them. Yesterday, she related, and repeated, again and again, all the circumstances connected with this event. She said that a person took the rings from her ears—that her father took her into the field to seek them, and that when her mother carried her to the doctor to have her ears bored, she cried, like a child, which she would not do again. She also said, that once when her mother was sick, she herself was rocking the cradle, that her grandmother came in and told her she need not rock it any more, but that she might go to her house. She said she went and they had light puddings for dinner. At this time she was three and a half years old. All these circumstances are recollected by one or by both her parents, and there is no doubt as to the precise dates of their occurrence. I give them as illustrative of the subjects and tenor of her conversation at this time. She had a great deal to say about Dr. Webster, their old family physician, and about all the persons with whom she was most familiar, while a young child, but whom she had not seen, and whose names she has rarely heard mentioned for eight or nine years. She says but little of recent events, with a single exception. At different times during her sickness she has been visited by two gentlemen who have attempted to produce in her that state of the system, constituting artificial somnambulism. She has also been examined and prescribed for by two other individuals—females—themselves somnambulists. A fifth person, a physician—has a few times seen her, and once prescribed for her, cowhage. These five individuals are frequent subjects of her remarks. She gives them all the title of "*doctor,*" and whenever she speaks of them her whole manner becomes animated and even boisterous.

She laughs with great glee, claps her hands, directs her eyes towards the ceiling, and talks in a loud tone of voice. She frequently exclaims, "*There they are! O, how mad they will be! O, how silly they look! They can't get in! I have locked them out!*" And so on. She always speaks of her physician with great kindness and confidence. Every thing that is right she attributes to him; every thing that is wrong to some one else. Speaking to some one of her old associates in England, she said, "*Give the doctor a good bed, it's no matter where I sleep.*"

During this state, the sense of pain in the head still seems to be present. In her most violent motions, she often clasps her head with both hands; and, for a moment, buries it in the pillows or in the bed. This afternoon, during my visit, she said, "*Jane, don't let mother know how my head aches!*" frequently repeating, also, "*O this poor head! O my poor head!*" At these times, she pays no regard to things or persons about her. Once, when the paroxysm went off, and she had returned to her natural state, she said, "*Where have I been?*" She is then exhausted, and feels sore. She retains no recollection of the occurrences of the paroxysm.

July 16th.—Last Thursday or Friday, the paroxysm commenced about fifteen minutes past ten o'clock in the evening, and continued till towards night, the next day. Her first question, on the return of natural consciousness, was, "*Has it struck eleven?*" Another paroxysm commenced on Saturday evening, and with some very brief, fugitive glimpses of her natural state, continued through Sunday, and was still present at my visit, this forenoon, Monday. All through yesterday, she talked as though the day was Saturday—spoke frequently about the children going to Church "*to-morrow,*" &c. This morning she still had the same consciousness, in regard to time, although, in answer to a question, she said to-day was Monday, because her father had told her so. The state of the patient's mind, during this preternatural condition, has changed, in one respect, since yesterday. She is now perfectly conscious of surrounding things—recognises persons about her—talks with them—answers questions, &c.; but the tone of her voice is still bad, and her manner violent, animated and wild. Her eyes are open, and the balls not rolled up in the sockets, excepting at intervals, and then only for a moment. At times, during these periods, she amuses herself with her books and letters; then she will call for her slate and pencil. During my visit to-day, she suddenly exclaimed, "*I know how to cypher! I know how to cypher! I can tell how many minutes there are in a day! I can tell how many seconds there are in a day!*" She had neither slate nor pencil; but she turned her face downward towards the bed, smoothed the sheet with her right hand, and, for a few seconds, moved her fingers rapidly, as though she was occupied with a pencil in doing a sum. She then gave correctly the number of minutes and of seconds contained in twenty-four hours. Whether she gave these results from memory, or whether she actually went through the calculations at the time, I have no means of knowing. There were manifested, at different

times, various other phenomena, which seemed to show extraordinary quickness and acuteness of some of the senses. The *transitions* from one state to another are becoming more frequent, and they are always *instantaneous*; in the twinkling of an eye, quick as a flash of lightning, the tone of her voice, the expression of her countenance, and her whole aspect and manner are changed. She has nearly ceased talking of old affairs. The physical condition of the patient remains essentially the same.

August 20th.—For the last month, she has, in some respects, been slowly improving. She is still subject to the *two states*, which have already been described. Her loud and violent manner has, however, almost wholly ceased. These periods occur now, most frequently, in the night. For the most part, she is, during the day, quiet, and has her mind fully and perfectly. She has only a confused and very indistinct remembrance of the occurrences of July. She remembers imperfectly some things, when they are told to her, but says they all seem like dreams. She is able to sit up during most of the day. She has a few times rode and walked out of doors. Within a few days, she has had her menses, after an interval of three months. Her appetite is almost entirely wanting, and she takes but a very small quantity of food. The headache still continues, although she says it is *not quite so bad*.

October 18th.—After August 20th, I was some weeks absent from home, and did not see the patient. Nearly two months ago, she was carried to the sea coast, where she remained only ten days. Ever since that time, she has been in a very bad state. The *two conditions* still continue, and she is constantly and frequently passing from one to the other. Some days, during her *crazy turns*, as her mother calls them, she is noisy, tossing herself about, and screaming. When these are absent, she is, as she always has been, still, quiet, perfectly self-possessed, conscious of her situation, with a sad, distressed expression of countenance. For some time past, there has been exquisite tenderness of the scalp. She starts, shudders, and screams at the slightest touch. She avoids touching her head with her own hands. In the severest paroxysms of pain, she clenches her hands, grates her teeth, and literally shudders with suffering; but she does not put her hands to her head. The *headache is just as bad as it ever was*; there is no remission, no mitigation of its intolerable severity. During the preternatural state, she talks for hours together about her head, and about not letting anybody, and especially her mother, know how bad the pain is. Within a few days, during my visits, I have heard her say—“*O what pain! what pain! I don't want mother to know—I never told anybody; no, and I never shall—my head is on fire—my eyes are on fire—I can't hide it much longer—I try to hide it from my poor mother—I try to get up and be cheerful; but O what agony, agony, agony!—Nobody knows; I shall never tell anybody.*” At these times, she seems to be sensible to surrounding objects; but she very rarely takes notice of any thing which is addressed directly to herself.

November 12th.—The patient is still in nearly the same state. There is no relief to the headache. She said to me to-day, it has never been so bad as it has for a few days. She says that she does not mind the external soreness so much as she did, because the headache is so severe. I found her to-day sitting up, in a rocking-chair, with a book in her hand. She had read between sixty and seventy pages. She said she could remember most of her reading, as well as she ever could. Her cheeks were of a bright rosy red. She said that her head felt hot; but that her whole body, inside and out, was chilly. She has often complained of this. She takes but very little food. She has pretty often gone forty-eight hours without taking a particle of food or drink. Her mother says that she does not take, on an average, for weeks together, more than a single cracker daily. She drinks lemonade and coffee. Her pulse is about 80, feeble and soft. Her bowels are regular, and her tongue clean. The numbness of the feet is almost constant. For the last week, she has been, most of the time, conscious, and free from her wild paroxysms.

January 20th, 1839.—No essential change has taken place since the last entry. For a few weeks past, her talking has consisted mostly of expressions of resignation, religious hope in the future, recitations of hymns, and quotations from scripture. While I was sitting by her bed, a week ago, she said—"My suffering increases every day. O, mother, don't trouble yourself about me. When I am gone, you have plenty more. No creature can tell the suffering that I have had for three years and three months—O no creature can tell. I will soon go to my Heavenly home, where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest. Heaven will repay all that I have suffered here. As St. Paul says—When this earthly tabernacle is dissolved, I have a house not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens."—She moans almost constantly; and at times shrieks with the pain. She suffers, also, exceedingly from the exquisite sensibility of the scalp. To-day, her father, while engaged in writing the names of his children in the Bible, miscalled the date of the birth of one of them. He was immediately corrected by the patient. After my visit, she said, "I suppose they won't believe it, but I remember distinctly when John was born." She was then seventeen months old. The quantity of her food is still exceedingly small. More than once, she has passed forty-eight hours without taking a particle of solid nutriment, or a drop of drink. Since November, 1838, she has had three very violent attacks of the convulsive cough. They did not yield to the Prussic acid, but were removed in a few days by free doses of the extract of belladonna. The distinct mental states still continue, with their quick and frequent transitions from one to the other. Most of the time, she is in the preternatural state, or, as her mother says, she is *lost*.

February 20th.—For the last three weeks, the patient has been slowly improving. The headache is *less violent*, but not removed; and there is less

tenderness of the scalp. She has been constantly conscious. She gets some sleep nearly every night, and has been able, for the last fortnight, to sit up several hours, nearly every day. There is less flushing of the face, and less coldness of the hands and feet. The sense of heat in the head still continues, and although she takes food rather more freely, it is not because she has any appetite for it. I asked her, a few days ago, if she was confident about her recollection of the time when her brother John was born. She smiled, and answered, that she remembered it as well as though it happened yesterday. She said that she had no remembrance of this event before her present sickness. Most of the events of her sickness, *except in relation to the lapse of time*, are very indistinctly remembered.

Lowell, Mass., 25th February, 1839.

ART. IV. Case of Cancerous Ulceration of the *Œsophagus* opening into the Trachea. By MORRILL WYMAN, M. D., Cambridge, Mass.

R. B. came under my observation, July 10th, 1838. Patient tall, large frame, much emaciated; *ætat.* 70. Reports he has not been in good health for eight or ten years. During several months past, has lost flesh and strength. Three months since, while at dinner, first perceived difficulty in deglutition. The morsel, a piece of meat, was arrested in the *œsophagus*, and he was obliged to return it to the mouth by hawking. From that time to the present, deglutition has become more and more difficult, forbidding the use of any other than liquid or soft solid food. He suffers no pain in the *œsophagus*, except an occasional burning sensation. Feels assured that his food always passes down to the same point, midway of the sternum, before it meets with any obstruction, or is returned to the mouth. When it is returned, it is not by any exertion on the part of the patient, but by an inverted action of the *œsophagus*.

Œsophagus examined by means of an ivory ball-probang, one half an inch in diameter. Instrument passed readily to seat of stricture, ten or twelve inches from the teeth, but there stopped suddenly without being in the least engaged in it. A similar ball, three-eighths inch in diameter, became slightly engaged, but with moderate force would not pass; a third, one-fourth inch in diameter, passed readily into the stomach. Stricture about eight inches from pharynx, one and a half inches in length; passage small and apparently rough from projecting masses along its sides.

July 22d.—Called to patient, who informs me he was able to swallow as usual, till thirty-six hours ago, since that time has swallowed no food whatever;

is faint and exhausted. Says he is very hungry; takes food frequently, but in two or three minutes it returns again to his mouth—"shall surely starve, if not soon relieved." The smallest ball-probang passed through stricture; still patient could neither eat nor drink. After some difficulty, a very small stomach tube was introduced, and a half pint of milk porridge thrown in by means of a pump; in four hours, a pint more of the liquid was administered in the same way.

23d.—Reports he was much revived by food; in evening was able to swallow again. This morning, has taken breakfast (ginger-bread made soft in tea,) with much more ease than usual. At noon, ventured upon a small piece of pork, which also passed. Still very weak.

30th.—Since last date, deglutition has improved gradually; none of his ordinary food has been returned, but is careful that it be either soft or in very small pieces. Strength increasing.

During latter part of summer and fall, patient has been employed about his house as usual, doing such things as his strength would allow. About once in ten days, has had ball-probang, one-fourth inch in diameter, passed through stricture. This has never been done, however, unless he has been obliged to submit to it by a fear of complete closure of the *œsophagus*, and consequent starvation. At each time the difficulty in passing the probang was increased, not only by the narrowed passage, but also by the difficulty experienced in finding it. The instrument required a certain direction, or it would slip into a little excavation at the side of the true passage, through which there was, apparently, no opening into the *œsophagus* below the stricture.

October 17th.—On withdrawing the probang, it was found besmeared with a brownish coloured, slimy, very fetid matter. During two or three days following, skin hot and dry; tongue coated; pulse accelerated. These symptoms soon passed off, and he recovered his usual state of health, with an ease of deglutition greater than he had enjoyed since the July previous.

This state continued till the last week in December, but with no improvement in strength or flesh. He now began to have cough, with some dyspnoea. The cough was increased on taking food, which he said produced "a terrible burning" behind the upper part of sternum. Food frequently rejected, even when liquid, after remaining a few minutes in the *œsophagus*. During the following week, became more sick. Thirsty; skin hot and dry. Pulse, 108; tongue coated; dry. Weaker, and, if possible, more emaciated than before.

January 9th.—Took to his bed on account of extreme debility. Cough increased; expectoration principally mucus, with some of the liquid he has attempted to swallow. Chest resonant on percussion; coarse mucous râles in both backs; sound of respiration distinct. Pulse, 110, small. Craves cold water only; thirst great. Two liquid dejections daily, not large. From this date, cough more distressing. Difficulty of deglutition not increased,

although burning sensation behind sternum is still complained of. The pulse became more rapid till the evening of the 12th, when it was at 120 per minute. During the night of the 12th, extremely restless, and on the morning following, after being turned in bed by his attendant, immediately expired.

The body was examined thirty hours after death, in the presence of my father, Dr. Rufus Wyman, and several other medical gentlemen. Externally, body extremely emaciated; muscles very distinct; chest large; abdomen very much sunken. Tongue, pharynx, œsophagus, stomach, and the contents of the chest removed together. Pharynx appeared healthy throughout, as did the tongue. Epiglottis large, healthy. Nothing abnormal discovered in removing the œsophagus until its connections were destroyed as far as the fourth dorsal vertebra, where such strong adhesions were found between it and the periosteum, covering that bone, that they could be separated by the knife only; adhesions hard and grating under the edge of this instrument. Œsophagus of the usual size at its junction with the pharynx: below this, larger than usual till near the level of the fourth dorsal vertebra, where its sides became thickened and calibre diminished by a rough tuberculated surface to the diameter of one-eighth of an inch. This contracted portion extended about two inches of the length of the canal. This part in a state of ulceration with fetid matter adherent. Two ulcerations were observed deeper than the others, and, on gently inserting a probe into one of them, it passed freely into the trachea. The trachea and bronchi being then laid open, another ulceration admitting a full sized dressing probe was seen in the posterior membranous part of the trachea exactly at its bifurcation. This, too, communicated with the œsophagus at its thickened, ulcerated part. The trachea and bronchi near the openings, showed evident marks of inflammation; mucous membrane red, roughened, and in some parts a purulent secretion upon its surface. On the tracheal side, the openings were smooth, with the edges thin and well defined; on the opposite side rough, with ulcerations leading directly down to them. Some adhesions of long standing existed between the lungs and pleura costalis, but otherwise these organs were remarkably healthy. Stomach carefully examined at its cardiac and pyloric orifices, but no thickening or schirrous appearance observed.

Cambridge, Mass., February, 1839.

ART. V. *On the Remedial Powers of the Persequintrate of Iron.* By
T. C. ADAM, M. D., of Lenawee county, Michigan.

FOR upwards of five years we have been in the habit of prescribing, almost daily, the *liquor ferri persequintratis*, a remedial agent first discovered and introduced to notice, we believe, by Wm. Kerr, Esq.; though Dr. Graves, in a clinical lecture, quoted in No. XXXV. of this Journal, ascribes this merit to Dr. Christison, of Edinburgh. We have derived from its use very remarkable assistance in the treatment of several diseases, especially diarrhoea, and other affections of mucous membranes accompanied by discharges; and as its virtues seem not to be so generally known in this country, as they deserve to be, we have been induced to lay before our brethren a few observations illustrative of its value as a therapeutic agent.

The formula for the preparation of this remedy, as given by Mr. Kerr, will be found in the No. of this Journal for May, 1832, p. 235.

Our first trials of this remedy were in cases of *diarrhoea*, and from its employment we have derived highly beneficial results. We must not be misunderstood to mean that this astringent is applicable to every case of diarrhoea, or that it has been found indiscriminately useful. We have not thought proper to administer it in every variety of this complaint; but of its beneficial effects in such cases as the following, we can speak with much confidence.

In January, 1832, a child of six months of age became our patient, on account of a diarrhoea, nearly habitual, but aggravated by dentition. Immediate relief was obtained by means of a free incision through the gums, down to the tooth or teeth. The fretfulness ceased, and the diarrhoea subsided to its usual degree. Two drops of the nitrate were then ordered three times a day, and to be continued for at least ten days after the cessation of the diarrhoea. The effects of this treatment were a cessation of the habitual diarrhoea for at least eighteen months, and an improvement in rudeness of complexion, and in temper or feelings of comfort.

In April, 1832, a lady applied for advice, probably in consequence of the threatened invasion of cholera. Her bowels were very readily moved, generally tender or uneasy; she was languid and weak, pale and emaciated, and was much troubled with cold feet and profuse perspirations. She had been subject to diarrhoea from the slightest causes for several years. Intelligence of an unpleasant nature would almost invariably produce it. For her I ordered frictions with salt-water to the surface, and the nitrate, in doses of 15 to 25 drops, four times a day. After using the remedy a few days, this lady commonly improved; but from giving up its use too soon, the relief was not of long continuance.

We have generally ordered the medicine to be continued for at least ten days
No. XLVII.—MAY, 1839. 6

after the disease disappears; and have continued its use as long as four months after every threatening of diarrhoea was gone. The diarrhoea never returned for several months, if the medicine was faithfully taken for ten days or more; but, as in the case of this lady, we have had relapses in those who neglected the usual order so soon as amendment took place. This lady's case closely resembles that alluded to by Dr. Graves in No. XXXV. of this Journal. We may remark in passing, that Dr. Graves prescribes the nitrate in much smaller doses than we have been accustomed to do. We prescribe ten drops at a dose, two, three, or four times a day, frequently twenty-five; whereas Dr. Graves gives seven, gradually increased to fifteen drops in the course of the day; and we think we have obtained a more rapid amendment, from the larger dose.

A lady, about 30 years of age, had had diarrhoea for ten months previously to her applying to me. It commenced as soon as she got up in the morning, and continued all forenoon; in the afternoon it subsided almost entirely. It was accompanied with but little pain; but there was considerable thirst. During the ten months she had tried a variety of proposed remedies in vain. She has never been free from her complaint except for about two weeks, after having taken some purgative pills, which operated very powerfully. In constitution and symptoms, this case was exactly parallel with those referred to by Dr. Graves, in the XXXVth No. of this Journal. She took ten drops of the liq. perseque-nitr. ferri, gradually increased to twenty drops, three times a day. In four days she was nearly quite free from the diarrhoea; and in two weeks felt stronger and in better health than for ten months previously. For about a year, as long as we knew her history, she had no return of diarrhoea, or bad health.

A gentleman, about 80 years of age, had recently moved to Michigan, when he applied to me on account of diarrhoea, accompanied with considerable uneasiness and griping pains. He attributed these complaints to the changes he had been obliged to make in his diet, especially to eating more pork than usual with him, and partly to the water he had to drink. I could ascertain no other causes in operation, and thought his own etiological theory probably the true one. To lessen the irritability of the mucous membrane, and at the same time restrain the discharges, I could think of no medicine more likely to be effectual, than the nitrate of iron. Fifteen drops were taken three times a day in water, and on the third day he reported himself much relieved from the griping pains and uneasiness in abdomen. By continuing the use of this remedy for not more than ten days, this gentleman obtained complete relief from his "new country" complaints, which had existed upwards of six weeks before the nitrate was prescribed. From the effects of the remedy in this case, and from some similar observations in other cases, we were inclined to believe that this nitrate, like some other metallic nitrates, had the property of subduing morbid sensibility of the

organic nerves. In the paper of Dr. Kert, will be found a case remarkably confirmatory of this theory.

Since we commenced the use of the nitrate of iron, there has seldom been any long interval between our cases of children who were habitually subject to oft-recurring attacks of diarrhoea, and who occasionally had attacks of what mothers call worm fever—infantile remittent. In such cases diarrhoea not unfrequently alternates with constipation. It is seldom such cases are put under medical treatment, except when the remittent fever or the diarrhoea is more than usually severe. We have generally had children of this description put under our charge when they were labouring under fever. With doses of calomel and rhubarb, followed by oil in the morning, repeated every second night, and conjoined with a bland, easily-digested diet, and with attention to ablution, quietude, and warm clothing, we have usually succeeded in alleviating or curing the fever. We have, then, in a majority of cases, recommended that the child should, for some weeks, have a bland nutritious diet, consisting chiefly of well-boiled farinaceous articles, and make use of the nitrate of iron regularly. In several instances we have failed to procure a steady employment of this medicine for a sufficient length of time; in some, again, the parents have continued it, of their own accord, for upwards of two months; and in all the cases in which it was regularly administered for a period of three weeks or more, we do not know that such children were again attacked with fits of diarrhoea, or suffered from infantile fever. Of several we can affirm *confidently*, that they were altered subjects; formerly pale, exsanguine, peevish, delicate, and requiring much anxious attention, they have become hale and fresh-coloured, strong, playful, and easily taken care of.

Such are the varieties of diarrhoea for which we have most frequently prescribed the liq. *potassquintr. ferri*. They are all of a chronic nature, and the temperament of both the younger and the adult patients has had a large admixture of the nervous. This we incline to attribute to the irritable condition of the mucous membrane of the intestinal tube, and to the debilitating effects of frequent diarrhoea. Numerous cases, similar to those given, might be produced from our case-book; but our purpose is, solely to indicate clearly the kind of cases in which we have employed this medicine most frequently, and in which we have found it without a rival. For this purpose we have given, we hope, sufficient narration, and avoided “vain repetitions.” We will now add a few explanatory observations.

The dose which we employ in adult cases is, as we have already incidentally remarked, much larger than that which Dr. Graves is reported to employ. We seldom order less than fifteen drops at the commencement; and after a few days of employment of the remedy we increase the quantity to twenty, twenty-five, and thirty drops at a dose. For children we proportion the dose according to the age. We have only in one case that we recollect of, that of a Mrs. J. Dunlop, had occasion to reduce the quan-

tity. In this case, which, by the bye, was one of recent, not habitual diarrhœa, the usual dose did not produce any alleviation of the symptoms, but seemed rather to increase the griping pains; we, therefore, reduced the quantity to seven drops, and in less than twenty-four hours, the amendment was very marked. We have administered, and we have taken as much as a hundred drops; but, lately, where the usual quantity does not produce relief in two or three days, we prefer adding a little laudanum, or employing some other auxiliary, to the employment of more than thirty-five drops. At the same time, we have never experienced any bad effects from so large a dose as even a small teaspoonful, which we have frequently known to be taken three and four times a day.

The time during which the nitrate will keep good, that is, clear and transparent, varies considerably. Dr. Graves says about a week—some of my acquaintances and correspondents say three and four weeks, while I myself have never had any become turbid in less than five or six weeks, and generally I have it quite transparent for two months or upwards. I have also used it turbid without any sensible diminution of its astringent effects. Mr. Kerr, however, thinks that when it has become turbid, it is not so powerful. It is only in a few instances that we have employed it after this change.

In cases such as we have above described—cases of habitual diarrhœa, from birth perhaps, in children, and in cases in which there seems to exist an excess of irritability in the digestive tube—we know of no medicine which produces a more beneficial, immediate effect; and certainly, in its power of preventing similar attacks in future, this remedy is without any rival, so far as our experience extends. In cases of children, we have found its long-continued employment produce the most satisfactory results.

We have endeavoured to guard against any misconception of our ideas as to the cases or morbid condition to which our remedy is particularly applicable. We meet with chronic diarrhœa in two forms—persistent and what may be called intercurrent. The former is generally the consequence of a severe acute attack; by the latter, we mean to designate such cases of this disease as consist in a tendency or predisposition, or in the frequent occurrence of slight attacks of an acute kind, the usual state being more or less normal, or rather inclination to constipation. In the majority of cases of both kinds, the proximate cause, as the pathological condition has been called, undoubtedly consists, not so much in the application of foreign irritating matters, or on fecal accumulations or morbid secretions, or on an undefined debility or relaxation of the mucous membrane, or on congestion or inflammation, so much as on an excess in the sensibility of the organic nerves which supply the digestive tube. It is not for *chronic diarrhœa*—a name for a symptom not a specific condition, that we prescribe this chalybeate astringent and sedative; but when, by investigation, we have satisfied ourselves that the diarrhœa is dependent on the above named condition, we

then employ this remedy in preference to opiates, or any other anti-diarrhoeal medicaments.

Having thus laboured to indicate, with precision, those forms of disease in which we have derived from the use of the *liq. peresquinitr. ferri* the most satisfactory and beneficial results, we will now briefly notice a few additional forms of disease, in which we can speak favourably of its remedial effects, though not with the confidence we feel as to our previous observations.

In *Leucorrhœa*, we have employed the nitrate of iron with excellent success. But to procure benefit, we are careful in the selection of proper cases. These we think are such as seem chiefly dependent on a laxity of fibre, or on an over-secretion without inflammatory action. The persons in whom we meet with this kind of leucorrhœa, are generally pale, æsangume, feeble, languid. We would not administer the nitrate where there was reason to suspect any disease of the uterus. But in the former kind of cases, we have employed it very successfully, using it internally, generally, and always topically, in injection. We add to four ounces of water such a quantity of the nitrate of iron as will produce in the vagina a gentle degree of heat or smarting. The internal use is prescribed where it is probable that the system by this means may be so roborated as to aid in the cure of the local disease. Almost all the preparations of iron are useful in such cases, and we think this not inferior to any in this respect.

In several cases of *Menorrhagia*, we have found this astringent and tonic of much service. We think it may be preferred, in cases accompanied with anemia, debility, and relaxed fibre, to any astringent in common use. We know of none equal, save a mixture, in equal proportions, of the sulphates of alumina and iron.

We have made trial of the remedial power of this medicine in such cases of almost all the diseases in which astringents are usually prescribed as we thought the most appropriate. We do not know of any case in which the nitrate enjoys a marked superiority to the common astringents; but judging from our experience, we presume it will be found a convenient and useful addition to the list of such remedies.

Dr. M. A. Patterson, of Tecumseh, informs me that he has found the nitrate of much use in the treatment of *aphthous sores*, or what is vulgarly called "canker." Our experience, though small, confirms the utility of this application of the medicine.

A gentleman, in whose house a bottle of this remedy was at a time when he had the toothache, applied a few drops *sua sponte*, and obtained relief. May the nitrate of iron not possess a sedative or anodyne effect like the nitrates of silver, bismuth, &c.?

In fine, it may be mentioned as no small recommendation of the preparation, that it is cheap and easily procurable, and as each practitioner can prepare his own, it may be depended upon as uniform and unadulterated in

any important emergency. Those who have *felt* the deficiency, in purity and uniformity, of many of our remedial agents, will account this as not the smallest of its recommendatory qualities.

ART. VI. *Remarkable Case of Partial Sweating.* By SAMUEL S. MARCY, M. D., of Cold Spring, N. J.

THE subject of the following case, John Fallopius, *stat.* 45, of sanguine temperament and of strictly temperate habits, has never suffered a day's sickness, with the exception of the ague and fever, and is in every respect a healthy, athletic man. From the year 1823 to '30, he was attacked with every variety of ague and fever, from the slightest chill perceptible, to the most violent ague possible, embracing the tertian, quartan, quotidian, and double quotidian type; and much of the time accompanied with excessive night sweats, equal to a Thompsonian sweat. Now, and for the last six years, has been free from that or any other disease, but is subject to profuse perspiration on taking much exercise, perspiration greatly disproportionate to the exercise or labour; while in a recumbent posture, the perspiration is confined to the upper half of the body and extremities; the opposite, or under side perfectly void of any moisture; temperature natural; change his position to the opposite side, and in a short time perspiration subsides on the side he is laying upon, and commences on the upper side again, and so on as often as he chooses to change his position. A line of perspiration would be correctly marked by a line drawn from the centre of the frontal bone to the pubes, including the extremities. The patient has often amused himself and friends, by noticing his one-sided sweating propensity on changing his position from side to side. While in an erect position, the perspiration was uniformly diffused over the whole surface. During the past extremely warm summer, his eccentric perspirability continues even in the erect position, and he continues to amuse his friends by exhibiting one side of the face covered with pearly drops of perspiration, while the opposite side is entirely free from any moisture. Since it showed itself in the erect position, it is confined to the left side exclusively, and so continues.

I submit the facts to the profession as I have often witnessed them, confident that there is no deception in the case, leaving them to give the why and wherefore. I cannot give a reason that will satisfy myself.

Cold Spring, Cape May, Aug. 15th, 1837.

ART. VII. *Case of Epilepsy.* By CHARLES A. PORTER, M.D., of New York.

IN the number of this Journal for November, 1838, there are given the results of M. E. Esquirol, in the treatment, cure, &c. of Epilepsy. Our experience so well accords with those results, that we are induced to report the following case recently treated.

February 7th, 1838.—I was requested to visit Miss D. of this city, *ætat.* 17, who has been subject to fits for three years: produced at first by anxiety of mind. In her infancy she was sickly. But since she was attacked by these fits, her health has been excellent. There is considerable regularity in their recurrence every fifth day. Her mother remarks that such is particularly the case when there is a new moon. After this, and especially at the full of the moon, there is an interval of seven and more days. On a careful examination we find heat of head slightly abnormal: extremities cool. Temperament *nervo-lymphatic*. Menses regular. At their commencement and cessation, she has a fit.

Appetite always good, craving fat, hearty food; free from pain in the epigastric region, and indeed over the entire abdomen. She has been indulged in her desire for food. No regard, as I am informed, has been paid to diet by her medical attendants, of whom there have been several; one a homœopath. Pulse so small, that it is with difficulty it can be felt, and preternaturally frequent. The tongue denotes gastric irritation: *papilla* red, shining through a white fur. I directed a mild, unirritating diet, as mush and milk; abstinence from tea and coffee; the frequent and repeated use of revulsives, as foot baths made stimulating with cayenne pepper, mustard and nitro-muriatic acid; a large poultice of mustard and Indian meal over the bowels; and a similar poultice over the spine, as there is tenderness about upper dorsal region, and after that apply a tartar emetic plaster to the same spot. By this plan of treatment, she escaped her fits just one month, until March 7th, when she had a fit, which was very light.

This was followed in five days, March 12th, by another occurring in the morning, which was severe, and lasted nine minutes. There was a loss of consciousness, which remained for two minutes before the patient fell. After the fit she complains only of dulness in the anterior portion of the head. Pediluvium for the evening, made stimulating with mustard.

March 13th.—Patient feels well in every respect. Dorsal spinal tenderness present, but in an inferior degree. Bowels rather confined; directed a pill of *mass. hydrarg. grs. v.* and *sulph. magnes. ʒij* following morning. Our patient, it should be mentioned, is operated upon by very little medicine.

15th.—Commenced giving tincture of stramonium. Directed two

doses that day, sixty drops each. We were careful to obtain the seeds of a gentleman who collected them at the proper season, and had the tincture made under our own direction with 3iv seeds to alcohol Oj. Sixty drops were repeated three times a day until March 18th, when I discovered sensible effects from the medicine. Pupils much dilated, with double vision, and stupid look, similar to a person with the first effects of inebriation. Directed medicine discontinued for that day.

19th.—Find that the dilatation of pupils is removed, and patient can discern objects naturally. Directed the tincture continued in thirty drop doses, three times a day: a pill of mass. hydrarg. aloes and rhubarb at night, and a pediluvium with a large cupful of mustard. Continue to irritate the spine with tart. antimon. unguent.

20th.—The tincture was taken twice yesterday. The pill had no effect. Repeat the pill at night, and salts in the morning, if requisite. The pulse gains more force, and is near the natural standard—70.

22d.—The pupils are considerably dilated. There is a wild appearance of the eye: the patient complaining of imperfection of vision. Directed medicine to be continued in fifteen drop doses.

23d.—Directed for the evening dose thirty drops.

24th.—Continue medicine in thirty drop doses.

April 4th.—The stramonium has produced looseness of the bowels; but pretty constantly since last date, thirty drops have been taken three times a day. She is at present menstruating. I have directed a pill three times a day, containing oxyd-rubr-ferri grs. ij, extract conium-maculatum, grs. ss. And to an ounce of the tincture, I have added sulph. morphia grs. ss.

5th.—Takes gtt. xv of tinct. for a dose.

8th.—Takes pills four a day.

The pills and the tinct. are regularly continued until May 10th. Nine in the evening, had a fit of short duration. Two days previous she commenced her menstrual period. This was very immoderate, her mother comparing it to one who had miscarried. Just prior to the fit, there was a great flow. After the fit they ceased entirely. It is proper to remark here that the patient had felt so well, and continued free of the fits for so long a period, that she had not observed her usual regularity in taking the medicine. Besides, on the day previous to the fit, she had taken an unusually long walk.

May 11th.—I have directed the tinct. in doses of 40 drops three times a day with tinct. opii gtt. xv in each dose, as there is a great tendency in the stramonium to run off by the bowels.

27th.—Had a fit at mid-day. She had taken gtt. 60 that morning, and gtt. 40 just prior to having the fit. She felt badly in the morning, and had eaten heartily of fried eels, contrary to all directions.

28th.—Have rigidly enforced a plain diet of mush and milk: apply all over the abdomen equal parts ol. terebinth. and ol. oliv.: pediluvia with

mustard, a plaster of extract hemlock, camphor and opium to spine—gtt. 60 of tinct. for morning dose, and continued so as to keep the pupils constantly dilated. The bowels now costive; this to be remedied by a pill of mass. hydrarg. aloë and pulv. rheum.

June 28th.—Had a fit, and another five days after.

July 13th.—Directed the following R: Ol. terebinth. ℥ss: Pulv. sacc. alb. ʒij: Pulv. gum Arab. āā: Aqua destill. ʒiv. Tablespoonful three times a day.

17th.—Had a fit—the menses in large quantity, amounting almost to a flooding.

23d.—Had a fit. The tongue denoting gastric derangement, we have discontinued the ol. tereb. mixture, and with our consent, the patient has gone for a time to reside on the Brooklyn heights, for the benefit of purer air—all medicine discontinued. Diet to be observed, and take warm salt water baths, (recently established by Mr. Gray of Brooklyn.)

Remarks.—First. On stricter inquiry, we are led to believe that although this young lady has been subject to fits in their open, undisguised form, for three years, she has been predisposed to them from birth—for, in her earliest infancy, she had an attack—and had several of what are vaguely termed “inward fits.” When congenital and hereditary, says Esquirol, it is never cured.

Secondly. We were induced to consider the fits depending on the condition of the menstrual discharge, and directed our treatment accordingly. We succeeded with act. plumbi gra. ij and opii gra. ss, frequently repeated, in moderating the discharge, but not in preventing the fits.

Thirdly. We are led to agree with Esquirol, not from this solitary case; for, during two years residence in Philadelphia Alms-house Hospital, there were many, very many cases, under every variety of treatment, not excepting even animal magnetism; and we regret to add, with no more beneficial results. The disease is a truly deplorable one; and thrice fortunate would he be who can point us to a certain remedy, even in a small number of cases.

280 Broadway, January, 1839.

ART. VIII. *Bite of a Spider on the Glans Penis, followed by violent symptoms—recovery.* By ISAAC HULSE, M.D., U. S. N. Fleet Surgeon, W. I. Squadron.

ON the 7th of August last, Mr. Q. of this place, while in the privy, perceived himself to be stung by a spider on the glans penis. The pain, which was not great at the moment, continued to increase till 1 P. M., an hour

after the accident, when it had become extreme, and I was called to see the patient. I found him lying upon a cot, and writhing under the most acute suffering. The place where the sting was made, showed no marks of irritation nor swelling. I however applied to it a strong solution of carbonat. potass, which I happened to have about me, and ran to the apothecary's for medicine. My absence lasted but a few minutes, and on my return, I found him vomiting with great violence, and complaining of deep-seated pain in the abdomen, extending up into the chest, and of sensations of choking and suffocation. The vessels of the neck and face were greatly distended, and of a dark hue. I opened a vein in the arm and let blood copiously through a large orifice, and commenced immediately to give aqua ammoniæ and laudanum in doses of a teaspoonful of each every ten minutes, which were ejected as often from the stomach—pains and spasms along the spine and extremities now came on, and the agony and anxiety were, if possible, increased. Strong volatile liniment, tinct. cantharides, and spirits terbinth. were alternately applied to every part of the body by the patient's numerous friends who had assembled round him, and common injections were administered as frequently as they conveniently could be, with a view to open the bowels. The ammonia and laudanum were assiduously plied and occasionally some tinct. camphoræ, likewise; at the suggestion of Dr. Edwards of the navy who was called in, the oleum olivarum was freely administered. At 2 P. M. the paroxysms of pain came on at longer intervals, and the vomiting was less urgent, but the intensity of the pain when present, was undiminished. The principal medicine relied on, viz. the ammonia and laudanum, were continued every half hour, and at about 5 o'clock, after the exhibition of fifteen injections, fecal evacuations were obtained from the bowels. The patient became much easier in the course of the evening, and was able to retain a dose of castor oil, which purged him freely; but the pain in the legs continued through the night, which he passed without sleep.

On the subsequent day, sinapiens were applied to the legs without effect, and the evening brought little or no mitigation of the pain. Veins were now opened in both feet, which were placed in warm water, and the blood was allowed to flow till an impression was made on the pulse. In an hour after the bleeding, the patient enjoyed perfect ease; he slept well that night, and on the following day was able to walk about the house. He recovered in health very speedily.

This gentleman is of dark complexion, short stature, and powerful muscular development.

I saw several spiders in the place where he received the sting. They were of large size, of a dark brown colour, covered with hairs over the legs and body.

In this case four ounces of laudanum and an equal quantity of aqua ammoniæ were administered in the space of four hours.

Pensacola, February 2d, 1839.

ART. IX. *A Brief Account of Scarlatina, as it prevailed in the Orphan House, Charleston, South Carolina, during the months of June and July, 1838.* By GEO. LOGAN, M. D., Physician to the Institution.

THE summer commenced with very unsettled weather, the transitions of temperature were frequent and sudden. On the 2d June, a storm occurred, accompanied by rain. On the 4th, the heat was oppressive; again on the 7th, Fahrenheit's thermometer fell to 60°. From this date to the close of the month, the season was dry and warm; an inflammatory constitution of the atmosphere resulted.

This was manifested by the character of the prevailing diseases. Catarrhal affections were general, and in several instances assumed the form of pneumonia, requiring the lancet; harassing whooping cough (still lingering in the institution) was aggravated to a degree which rendered depletion and blisters necessary. Anodynes could seldom be employed with safety; although the sufferings of the little subjects were protracted, they were all restored to health before the middle of July.

About the second week in June, the much dreaded *scarlatina*, which had afflicted a part of the city for eighteen months previously, first appeared in this institution. Its distinctive character was strikingly developed. The first eleven cases were unattended by any malignant symptoms, passing favourably through the several stages. Swellings of the tonsils, pain and soreness of the fauces subsided on the fifth day; desquamation of the eruption took place on the sixth, and convalescence on the eighth and ninth days.

The subsequent cases were more violent, confirming the observation of certain distinguished physicians, "that in large institutions, epidemics in their progress often acquire a malignancy." To obviate this as far as possible, the commissioners with a solicitude and kindness becoming guardians of the "public's children," consented to appropriate the spacious chapel as an hospital, into which thirteen subjects then under treatment, were transferred. Disinfecting substances, as chloride of lime, and afterwards the fumes of vinegar and nitre were introduced into the dormitories and other apartments.

The most alarming instances were ushered in, with languor, shivering, pain of the back, tenderness of the epigastrium, vomiting, pyrexia, with very ardent heat of the chest and body, a phenomenon in scarlet fever, noticed by physicians of antiquity, and among moderns, particularly by Dr. Currie of Liverpool, who regards this as the hottest of all diseases.

The exacerbations were invariably severe on the second and third nights. The efflorescence became confluent, with sometimes a tendency to recede in the morning, or to assume an ash, or purple colour, rather than scarlet; great restlessness and delirium were concomitants. Glandular swellings, anasarca, hydrothorax, and pulmonary affections, attended in many instances;

enormous imposthumes frequently succeeded, especially where there existed a strumous diathesis.

In the method of treatment, depletion was resorted to within the first thirty hours, at the commencement of the high temperature of the body, this being the favourable moment for vigorous action; calomel, and afterwards castor oil, or the sulphate of magnesia as febrifuges and anthelmintics, were generally exhibited; worms being always suspected to increase the gastric irritation, sometimes an emetic of ipecacuanha had a happy effect as a diaphoretic, and in accelerating the eruptive stage; cold vinegar was applied to the head during the height of pyrexia; oleaginous enemas were useful auxiliaries. Synapisms were beneficial in cases when there was a tendency to recede, or to assume the "*purpurata*;" on the latter occasion, the internal use of mustard produced a very favourable influence. Detergent gargles in which a large portion of common salt was dissolved, were usually employed. Anasarca swellings, as well as pulmonary affections, and imposthumes were frequent attendants, after the mildest as well as the most alarming forms of the disease, and under every variety of treatment indicated by the symptoms. It might therefore be inferred, that scarlatina is accompanied by *symptomatic fever*, with an original determination to the cutaneous and glandular systems.

In one subject, the œdematous condition of the system, with oppressed respiration, rendered a recumbent position insupportable; a fatal issue seemed to be rapidly approaching. I ventured to employ bloodletting; the result exceeded my most sanguine expectations; the benefit was decided and permanent, when indeed no professional hope could have been cherished.

Diarrhœa and dysentery were among the sequelæ, and our convalescents were long predisposed to cholera. Upwards of sixty children were under the influence of this epidemic in the course of eight weeks. Females suffered more than males. The symptoms were most violent in subjects between five and twelve years; no instance occurred of a second attack in the same individual; all predisposition seemed to have been obliterated.

One fatal case only have we the misfortune to record, a female in the eighth year of her age: in this unhappy instance, extreme difficulty was experienced in administering remedial means; great restlessness and delirium was observed on the second day; the cicatrix on her arm, for which she was bled, mortified, as did also a slight bruise produced by a casualty. The whole surface of the body previous to the disease, exhibited the highest appearance of malignancy. Hemorrhage from the mouth and nostrils took place two days antecedent to her death. About fifty inmates of the house (subjects for the disease) escaped: whether this exemption was effected by a returning *salubrity* of atmosphere in the locality, or to the peculiar action of *belladonna*, exhibited at the instance of my son Dr. Thomas M. Logan, in accordance with the plan of certain eminent European physicians, or to inoculation for scarlatina, which was also practised as a prophylactic, cannot be determined; certainly none of the latter subjects were afflicted with the epidemic.

MONOGRAPH.

ART. X. On Pseudomembranous Inflammation of the Throat. By E. GEDDINGS, M. D., Professor of Pathological Anatomy and Medical Jurisprudence in the University of the state of South Carolina.

SYNONYMS—*Pseudo-membranous inflammation of the throat. Angina Pseudo-membranacea. Angina tonsillaris membranacea. Angina Plastica. Angina Diphtheritica, (Bretonneau.) Angine Couenneuse (Guerment) Häutige Bräune. Germ.*

THESE several terms have been employed to indicate a peculiar form, or grade, of inflammation, attacking the mucous membrane of the throat and adjacent parts, the most conspicuous character of which is, the formation of a thin pseudo-membranous pellicle, either continuous or disposed in patches, and intimately adherent with the surface of the membrane producing it. The appellation *Diphtherite*, or *Diphtheritis*, (from *Διφθερία, membrana, exuvium*,) applied by Bretonneau to this affection, has been subsequently adopted by many of the French writers, and by some of other countries. He wished to indicate by it, a *specific* inflammation of the mucous membrane of the throat, characterised by the development of a membranous exudation upon the surface; and besides the proposition relating to its specific character, he attempts to prove, that this affection is identical with the angina maligna of authors; that croup is only the last degree of this disease; that angina maligna, or gangrenosa, is not gangrenous; and that there is no relation between mortification and the alterations to which this disease gives rise.*

The close affinity, if not the absolute identity, between angina membranacea, and angina gangrenosa, has been so fully established by the concurrent observations of ancient and modern pathologists, that there can be but little question about the propriety of considering them as different grades merely of the same affection. But croup, as it has been generally described and understood, by most of the writers of the last and the present century, is a disease so essentially different in most of its leading pathological characters, that it cannot be properly classed with either of the other affections. Diphtheritis, when it extends into the air passages, often gives rise to the formation of a false membrane upon the surface of the mucous membrane lining the larynx, trachea and bronchia; but this condition is widely different from croup, properly so called; and Bretonneau and his followers have created great confusion by their attempts to establish their identity.

The pellicular deposit formed upon the surface of the mucous membrane of the throat in the anginose affections, did not escape the observation of the early writers on medicine; but we are certainly indebted to Bretonneau for a better description of the disease in which it occurs, than had been given by his predecessors. The affection denominated *prunella*,

* *Traité de la Diphtherite*, p. 11. Paris, 1826.

by some of the ancient authors, was probably identical with the diphtheritis of Bretonneau. It is described as a chronic inflammation, spreading from the root of the tongue to the precordia, characterised by burning pain, a dark red colour, and the development of a whitish pellicle upon the surface of the inflamed membrane.* The description given by Aretæus, of the ulcers of the tonsils, can apply to no other affection than the one under consideration. These, he says, are sometimes mild, and without danger: aliqua aliena, pestifera, necantia—pestifera sunt lata, cava, pingula, quodam concreto humore albo, aut livido, aut nigro sordentia—crustam vero circumveniunt rubor excellens.† Similar remarks are made by the same author in other parts of his work, and corresponding descriptions might be cited from several of the writers of antiquity. The disease seems to have been of frequent occurrence during the seventeenth century, and was described, more or less in detail, by several of the writers of that period. It often appeared as a destructive epidemic, falling with its greatest force upon children; and as such was described by Carnevale, at Naples, in 1618;—in other situations, and at different periods, by Renatus Moreau, Alaymus, Francis Nola, Severinus, Wedelius, Cortesius, Zacutus Lusitanus, Ghisi, Heredia, &c. It appears to have prevailed with frightful ravages in Spain, and the Spanish provinces, and was by many considered as a disease of modern origin; first making its appearance in Spain, about the year 1610, and afterwards extending to Naples, Malta, and Sicily, where it continued to prevail for the succeeding twenty years.‡ This opinion, of the modern origin of the disease, was predicated on the silence of the Arabian physicians in relation to such an affection; but its correctness is invalidated by the quotations already made from Aretæus and others. It appears, indeed, to have been described as early as the year 1600, by Alfonso y Pedro Vaquez, a Spanish physician; and between this period and the year 1666, it called forth a great number of memoirs and treatises, from the physicians of Spain, by whom it was described under the appellations *garrotillo*, *trabadillo*, *morbus suffocans*, &c.§

In the course of the eighteenth century, notices of the disease were greatly multiplied, as it prevailed extensively, at different periods, throughout the greater part of Europe. But in proportion as it became more frequent in its appearance, the difficulty of tracing its history was much increased, by the different appellations which were, at different times, employed to express its true character. It was particularly in the course of this century, that originated the confusion, which has been subsequently continued, arising from the application of the terms *cynanche maligna*, *angina maligna* and *gangrenosa*, *scarlatina maligna*, *scarlatina gangrenosa*, *ulcerated sore throat*, *putrid sore throat*, &c. to conditions either identical, or differing so slightly from each other, as to render it impossible to discriminate between them. If, then, we admit that there is a disease cor-

* Etmüller de Feb. p. 302, apud Naumann. Klinik. 61.

† Aretæus, Lib. ii. caput ix.

‡ Don Joaquin de Villalba, *Epidemiologia Española ó Historia Cronológica de las Pestes, Contagios, &c. que han Acaecido en España*, tomo ii, p. 18. Madrid, 1803.

§ The following list comprises most of the Spanish writers on the disease, in addition to those cited above from Bretonneau:—Gomez de la Parra, Francisco Perez Cascales, Juan de Villareal, Herrera, Alonzo Nuñez, Juan de Soto, Francisco de Figueroa, Lorenzo de San Millan, Don Nicolas Antonio, Don Fernando Sola, Geromina Gil de Pina, Nicolas Gutierrez, Luis Mercado.

responding to the characters proper to *cynanche maligna*, and independent of *scarlatina maligna*, it must be confessed, that this difference has not been kept in view by the writers of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries who have treated on the subject. Thus the diseases described by Huxham and Forthergill, which are generally adopted as the type of *cynanche maligna*, were unquestionably *scarlatina maligna*; and there is no satisfactory evidence that the descriptions of Baillou, Morton, Malonin, Cotton, De Haen, Wall, Johnstone, Grant, Bang, Aaskow, Withering, Sims; and, in this country, of Colden, Douglass, Bard, and others, apply to a different disease. The more recent descriptions of Stoll, J. P. Frank, Reil, and of the numerous writers of the present century, have contributed greatly to improve our knowledge of the disease; but have left us in the same doubts that formerly existed relative to the exact relationship between *scarlatina maligna*, and the affections usually described under the names of *cynanche maligna*, *putrid sore throat*, &c.—it being still contended by some, that the two affections are identical.

Without pretending to discuss this question, I shall content myself with attempting to describe the diphtheritis of Bretonneau, and the *angina maligna* of previous authors, which it will be sufficient for the end proposed to consider as different degrees or stages of the same affection.

1. *Angina Pseudomembranacea*.—The incursion of the disease is often very insidious. The patient experiences merely a slight sense of rawness and heat in the throat, with a feeling of stiffness about the neck, and some impediment in deglutition. There is, however, in many instances, no difficulty experienced in swallowing, and the chief uneasiness experienced is a dry, raw sensation in the throat, as though the membrane had been preternaturally irritated by pepper or some other pungent substance. Some complain, from the commencement, of languor, general discomfort, a sense of chilliness, alternating with flushings of heat, thirst, pain of the head, swelling and stiffness of the throat, and considerable difficulty of deglutition. But this is far from being common; the patient, if a child, often continuing to indulge in its ordinary sports, being only a little fretful and dejected.

The condition of the mucous membrane of the fauces and tonsils exhibits appearances far more characteristic of the disease. Even at the commencement of the attack, these parts exhibit a deep red, circumscribed or extended suffusion, covered with coagulated transparent mucus, often disseminated in small isolated particles, of a whitish or grayish colour. As the disease advances, the exudation, which was at first slight, becomes more abundant, and forms a concrete pellicle, of a yellowish or grayish colour, generally disposed, at first, in patches more or less circumscribed, which are often a little elevated in the centre, but attenuated and flocculent at the circumference. This pseudo-membranous pellicle is at first thin and cribriform; but its thickness is afterwards increased by successive deposits. This gives it greater firmness, and it may sometimes be detached entire from the mucous membrane. If, however, the separation be cautiously made, the pellicle will be found to adhere to the subjacent membrane by numerous minute prolongations, or filaments, which seem to perforate the orifices of the mucous follicles. The severance of these generally produces a slight discharge of blood from the point with which they adhered, and when they have been detached several times, the bloody exudation becomes so considerable that it seems to ooze from every portion of

the denuded membrane. The part of the membrane from which the pellicle has been removed is not generally much swollen, but exhibits a dark red colour, often variegated with points or striæ of a deeper hue. In the interstices of the patches, the submucous cellular tissue occasionally assumes an œdematous condition, which elevates the corresponding portion of the membrane, and the isolated points covered by the pellicle being depressed, exhibit the appearance of ulcers, coated by a tenacious exudation. In all, except very mild cases, the patches soon become confluent, and very often the whole of the tonsils, the soft palate, the posterior part of the fauces, and even the inner side of the cheeks, and the whole mouth, are lined by a pellicular exudation of considerable consistence, which is rapidly renewed as often as it is detached.

The adventitious deposit is sometimes pultaceous and transparent, but in the course of the disease, it acquires greater consistence and tenacity, and may even attain, at some points, the thickness of several lines. Its colour also changes, becoming first ash-coloured, then brown, and finally black; in which condition, the patches are often mistaken for gangrenous sloughs. If they be detached at this juncture, the membrane beneath will be found of a dark-red colour; spongy, excoriated, and disposed to bleed on the slightest touch; but in no other respect altered. The perverted secretions poured out by the affected part, together with the constant oozing of blood which now takes place, renders the breath of the patient highly offensive, and the irritation being propagated to the surrounding parts, the cellular tissue of the neck often becomes tumid and œdematous; the lymphatic and salivary glands enlarge; and deglutition is performed with difficulty and pain.

In the early stage of the disease, the tongue is red on the borders, and narrowed at the tip. Its surface is covered with a thin whitish pellicle, through which the prominent red papillæ project, exhibiting the appearance of the small granules of a strawberry, but towards the root of the organ, the fur is, from the commencement, of a darkish hue, and as the disease advances, this appearance becomes more extended. Towards the close, the whole tongue often becomes dry, scabrous, and of a dark brown or black colour; the mouth is also dry; the teeth are covered with sordes; small ulcers form along the edges of the tongue and upon the inner surface of the cheeks; and the slightest irritation excites a discharge of blood from nearly the whole extent of the lining membrane of the mouth and fauces. This dryness of the mouth and tongue is far from being a constant character of the disease. It is not unusual, particularly during the early stages, for the glandular secretions of the mouth to be inordinately increased; and in some cases, it amounts to a complete salivation. The tonsils and soft palate are sometimes very much swollen; and occasionally the tongue is so much tumefied, as to fill the whole mouth, which, in consequence of the inability of the patient to breathe through the nose, is kept widely extended.

The disease is seldom confined to the mouth and fauces, but extends into the nose, along the eustachian tubes into the ears—into the larynx, and down the pharynx and œsophagus. The implication of the schneiderian membrane of the nose, is indicated by a thin ichorous discharge, producing considerable soreness and excoriation at the apertures, and by so much tumefaction of the membrane itself, as to render it impossible for the patient to breathe, except through the mouth. This keeps the tongue and

nasal cavity in a constant state of dryness, which adds greatly to the discomfort of the patient. Sometimes the discharge from the nose is thick and flocculent, and the effort to expel it not unfrequently occasions more or less blood to be poured out, which, mingling with the vitiated secretions, imparts to them a dark colour. Profuse epistaxis may occur under the same circumstances; and in all cases the discharge from the nose exhales a peculiar sickening, foetid odour.

When the pseudo-membranous inflammation extends into the larynx, it gives rise to all these symptoms of croup; as hoarseness, a shrill cough, great difficulty of respiration, and in some cases, complete aphonia. This circumstance has, doubtless, confirmed Bretonneau, and others, in the belief, that diphtheritis and croup are but one disease. In both affections, there is often formed a tough pseudo-membranous deposit upon the surface of the lining membrane of the larynx, trachea, and bronchial tubes; but although there is this correspondence in the anatomical characters of the two diseases, as well as in some of the leading symptoms, there is an essential difference in some of the principal elements of their pathology.

When the eustachian tube is involved, there is pain of the ear, with impairment of hearing; and in some cases, the use of the organ is permanently destroyed by obliteration of the tube. If the inflammation should spread into the pharynx and œsophagus, it will necessarily occasion a great feeling of soreness along the course of these organs, and acute pain, whenever an attempt is made to swallow. The false membrane, however, seldom extends far into the gullet, even when the inflammation producing it, spreads to the stomach and intestines.

A remarkable peculiarity of this diphtheritic inflammation is, that while its principal seat is the parts about the throat, it often seizes upon remote portions of the surface of the body. The contour of the anus; the apertures of the genito-urinary organs; the external meatus of the ears; the folds of the groins; and other similar parts, often exhibit excoriations, caused by a thin pellicle of false membrane, analogous to those which form in the throat. It is remarked by Trousseau, that he never witnessed this condition upon the skin, except in situations where the epidermis had been previously removed, or ulcerated; consequently when it had been made to assume some of the characters of a mucous membrane.* Blistered surfaces, especially, are liable to become covered with a pulpy pellicle, which sometimes assumes a dark colour; and leech-bites, or even slight excoriations of the cuticle, often run into an unhealthy form of ulceration, or give rise to an eruption of vesicles, surrounded by an inflamed areola.

The course of this form of angina is generally slow. The disease seldom reaches its height before the seventh or eighth day, and cases of much intensity seldom terminate in less than a fortnight, or three weeks. The fever, which is present from the commencement, generally continues with more or less variation through the entire course of the disease. But the inflammation and fever, which during the first stage proceed with considerable rapidity, show a tendency to become stationary after the lapse of a few days. The heat of the skin, when it is increased, is generally pungent at first; but in some cases, it is but little altered. The thirst is urgent; and the pulse is frequent, irregular, irritable, and without much

* Dictionnaire de Med. 2d edit. Art. Diphtherite.

force or volume. The eyes and countenance are sometimes flushed; but in many cases, the latter is pale, swollen, and wears an expression of sadness, and dejection. These symptoms are increased as the disease advances; but the heat of the surface, if considerable during the first stage, undergoes a sensible abatement, at the same time that the skin assumes a dingy appearance, and loses its natural elasticity.

There is frequently nausea, epigastric tenderness, and great precordial oppression. The bowels are generally constipated at the commencement; but it is not unusual for diarrhœa to supervene in the course of the disease; and in the last stages, it sometimes becomes colliquative; rapidly prostrating the powers of life. The secretions are perverted in quantity and quality, and the urine, especially, is scanty and dark coloured.

It has been remarked that delirium is seldom observed as a concomitant of diphtheritis. This assertion should be admitted with considerable limitation, as the nervous system is, in a majority of cases, extensively implicated. Very often, however, this complication is indicated rather by a state of general torpor, or prostration of nervous power, than by evidences of cerebral excitement. In bad cases, the muscular energy is generally prostrated from the commencement, and in the latter stages, it is so far impaired, that the patient is rendered completely helpless. The general, as well as the local symptoms, vary greatly, however, according to the violence of the disease. In mild cases, the febrile phenomena are inconsiderable, whereas in those of greater intensity, frequent exacerbations are observed—generally two or three in the twenty-four hours.*

In those cases in which the disease extends to the larynx, the life of the patient is always endangered; for, independently of the symptoms of croup already alluded to, which are apt to be developed under such circumstances, the inflammation is liable to spread into the bronchial ramifications, giving rise to all the phenomena of bronchitis, or pneumonia. This complication takes place, according to Guersent, about the seventh day, and is so insidious at the commencement, or is so masked by the local affection of the throat, that the fever and cough are apt to be ascribed to the latter cause. Indeed, cases not unfrequently occur, in which the affection of the fauces is very slight, while the larynx is so intensely implicated, that the disease terminates fatally, with all the symptoms of croup, within a few hours after the attack. This did not escape the observation of Hippocrates, and is noticed by him, both in his aphorisms and prognostics; in the last of which he remarks—“*Anginæ horridissimæ sunt, et citissimè occidunt, quæ neque in faucibus quicquam conspicuum faciunt, neque in cervicem, verum plurimum dolorem exhibent, et erecta cervicis spirationem inducunt—hæ enim eodem die suffocant.*”

In such instances, the cough is not so clearly guttural as in croup, nor is there so much hoarseness and aphonia as in that disease. The expectoration is generally tough and streaked with blood; sometimes frothy; percussion and auscultation reveal the presence or absence of the physical signs of bronchitis or pneumonia; and there is generally considerable fever, which presents regular evening exacerbations.

When the disease terminates favourably, the pultaceous, or pseudo-membranous deposit is generally cast off, leaving a clear, moist, red surface beneath, upon which there is no disposition to form a new croup. It

* Guersent. Dict. de Med. 2d edit. Art. Angine Couenneuse.

is sometimes detached in flakes—but more frequently it seems to be partially liquefied, and is thrown off in force of expectoration. The tongue becomes clean, and moist upon the edges, and expanded at the tip; the expression of the countenance assumes more animation; the general feeling of discomfort abates; and often a genial moisture diffuses itself over the surface of the body—convalescence then commences, but is often slow, and when the disease is associated with scarlatina, relapses are very apt to take place, or the life of the patient may be destroyed by dropsy, even after convalescence has set in. An unfavourable issue is indicated, by an aggravation of the leading symptoms of the disease—especially by the supervention of active delirium, or coma—extreme prostration of strength, great dryness and blackness of the mouth and throat, wasting diarrhœa, and a general tendency to dissolution of the solids and fluids. Under such circumstances, the disease assumes all the characters of angina maligna, which, though by many considered as a distinct disease, I shall describe here as constituting merely a variety of diphtheritis, or angina membranacea.

2. *Angina Maligna—Angina Gangrenosa—Cynanche Maligna.*

Many writers continue to describe a disease under this name, which they consider distinct from scarlatina maligna. The putrid sore throat of Fothergill and Huxham, however, which all acknowledge as the type of cynanche maligna, corresponds in every essential particular with the malignant forms of scarlatina. It is nevertheless true, that the pseudo-membranous angina sometimes assumes the same malignant character, and in this respect only, is it proposed to notice it under the present head.

The invasion of angina maligna does not differ essentially from that of the ordinary forms of diphtheritis, and any dissimilarity that occurs, relates more to intensity than character. There is the same languor and dejection—prostration of strength, uneasiness about the throat—and in some instances, a sense of chilliness preceding the development of the febrile phenomena. The glands about the throat, the tonsils especially, are generally more swollen from the commencement. The face exhibits a bloated, bronzed aspect; the eyes are heavy, lustreless, and watery; and the breath offensive. The fauces exhibit a deep red, or purple suffusion, upon which small patches, or flocculi, of a pulpy pseudo-membranous consistence are deposited. These are sometimes white, but more frequently of a dull ash colour, which in a short time is changed to brown or black. When first formed, they adhere to the surface of the mucous membrane with considerable tenacity, and when separated, leave it raw, dark coloured, and bloody. The parts speedily assume a dark sloughy condition; the adventitious deposit, together with the portions of the mucous membrane, is thrown off in form of flocculi, or shreds, which exhale a putrid, cadaverous odour; and the sloughing process spreads rapidly into the substance of the tonsils, the soft palate, and occasionally, also, into the parotid glands and cheeks. There is, likewise, almost from the commencement, a dark-coloured sanious discharge from the nose; dark-coloured vesicles form about the margin of the lips, the angles of the mouth, the inner surface of the cheeks, and upon the tongue. These discharge their contents, and take on a sloughing tendency. A similar condition is occasionally developed upon different portions of the skin. In a case which recently fell under my observation, the whole of the upper part of the tongue was thickly clustered

with small vesicles, similar to those produced by sprinkling boiling water upon the cutaneous surface. In the epidermis described by Colden, sores like those in the throat, formed behind the ears, on the genitals, or other parts of the body, and in these cases, there was sometimes no ulceration in the throat. Petechia are also sometimes observed. They were almost constantly present in the epidemic described by Short; and Wall, as well as many other writers, describes them as of common occurrence.

This form of the disease, like the preceding, is liable to implicate the larynx and air passages, and to extend its influence to the mucous membrane of the pharynx, œsophagus, stomach, and intestines. Nausea, vomiting, and epigastric oppression, are, indeed, frequently present from the commencement, and if the disease is not at first attended with diarrhœa, this symptom sooner or later supervenes. The dejections are thin, copious, sanious, and intolerably offensive. They are often so acrid as to excoriate, and inflame, the contour of the anus; and in bad cases, copious hemorrhages take place from the bowels, which have been ascribed to the formation and detachment of sloughs in the intestines, similar to those which are developed in the throat.

The febrile symptoms are generally marked by symptoms of considerable intensity, during the first and second days. The skin is hot and pungent, and the fever exacerbates towards evening. The mouth is parched: the thirst urgent; and the tongue soon becomes dry, brown about the root; finally black and scabrous—while sordes of the same colour invest the teeth and gums. The latter are generally spongy, tumid, and disposed to slough; and in some cases, gangrenous eschars involve the cheeks to such an extent, as to traverse their entire thickness. I have recently attended a case in which a rounded perforation was formed in the soft palate. Death took place in the advanced stage of the disease, by hemorrhage from the mouth—probably in consequence of the sloughing of the internal carotid artery—as the child died almost immediately after the irruption of the blood.

When the throat is much swollen, the difficulty of deglutition is extreme, and the enlargement of the glands about the neck, sometimes impedes the return of the blood from the brain, thereby giving rise to great turgescence of the vessels of the face and eyes, and considerable cerebral disturbance. Delirium, indeed, often exists from an early period, and although the febrile symptoms, which are at first urgent, soon subside into a low typhoid state, the delirium either continues, or gives place to a state of stupor or insensibility.

Angina maligna has no definite duration. It may destroy life in a few hours, or be protracted through a term of two, three, or four weeks. It generally reaches its height by the fifth or sixth day, and it rarely happens, that symptoms of high reaction continue beyond this period.

Prognosis.—The prognosis is generally unfavourable when the symptoms assume a formidable character at the end of the first week, and well grounded fears of an unfortunate issue may be entertained, when a marked tendency to dissolution of the solids and fluids is developed—especially, if with this, there be either extreme prostration of the vital powers, or serious complications arising from, and extension of the disease to the respiratory and digestive organs. A favourable termination may be anticipated, when the disease extends beyond the first septenary period, without the supervention of formidable symptoms, particularly if the se-

paration of the sloughs have a clean healthy surface beneath. The absence of complications with laryngeal and gastro-intestinal symptoms is also favourable, as are likewise a diminution of the frequency of the pulse, a subsidence of the tumefaction of the throat, and of the dryness of the tongue, with cessation of the diarrhœa, and the establishment of more consistent and healthy dejections from the bowels.

Ætiology of Angina Membranacea, and Angina Maligna.

Both grades of the disease may appear under either an epidemic or a sporadic form. They occur most frequently as an epidemic, confined to districts of small extent, or to cities, towns, and villages. Children are much more liable to be attacked than adults; and in them, it always assumes greater violence, although adults, contrary to what was asserted by Fothergill, often fall victims to its ravages. It has been affirmed that females are more liable to be attacked than males; but there is some reason to doubt the correctness of this opinion.

The disease is most prevalent in autumn and spring, and it has been generally said to occur most frequently, when the seasons are damp and rainy, with the long continuance of a heavy, cloudy, atmosphere. Such a coincidence has certainly been observed in many epidemics, yet the exceptions are too numerous to justify the conclusion that these conditions of the atmosphere are the essential causes of the disease. It is remarked by Trousseau,* that in 1825, a year remarkable for its dryness, the communes situated north of Orleans, were ravaged by diphtheritis, and it was observed, that the intensity of the epidemic did not reach its height in one commune, at the same time it did in another, placed under the same circumstances. Low, damp and marshy situations, it has also been affirmed, are more liable to the disease, than such as are high and arid. Such an inference must be received with some qualification, since it is proved by the history of many epidemics, that even the most salubrious and elevated localities, are not exempt. Such was the case in an epidemic observed by Trousseau, while the marshy districts of the same region enjoyed a perfect immunity. Poverty, or neglect of cleanliness, a want of ventilation, and an atmosphere vitiated by crowding together a number of persons, particularly children, as is the case in boarding schools, must be regarded as active predisposing causes. Yet the disease not unfrequently prevails to a great extent, where most of these circumstances are absent, and among those who enjoy every comfort and luxury of life. Within the last eighteen months, during which time diphtheritis has been prevalent in Charleston, I have not observed that its attacks were more frequent among the children of the poor, than those of the opulent.

The difficulty of referring the disease to any ordinary cause, and the circumstance of its spreading through whole families and communities, have induced many to refer it to a specific contagion. The sentiments of the profession on this question are conflicting, and owing to the disease having been confounded, until recently, with scarlatina, the documentary evidence is in a high degree unsatisfactory. Unfortunately, but little of it is available in forming a decision of the question, and if we confine our attention to the testimony of writers since the time of Bretonneau, the first to draw a distinction between diphtheritis and scarlatina, we shall find it contradictory. Trousseau is strong in his belief in a specific contagion.

* Dictionnaire de Med. 2d edit. Art. Diphtherite, tome x. p. 392.

He affirms that it is sufficient for one individual labouring under the disease, to be introduced into a family, to insure its development under all its forms. The cutaneous form of diphtheritis, especially, he thinks is very liable to be communicated by contact; and amongst the poorer classes, where, the same bed, clothing, and utensils, are used by all, the virus will thereby become so accumulated, as to render it very liable to attack all the members of a family. He informs us, that in 1828, he knew thirteen individuals, out of seventeen, fall victims to the disease. He found, however, that inoculation in the arm, the tonsils, and the soft palate, with a lancet smeared with the matter of a false membrane taken from a diphtheritic sore, did not produce the disease. In the arm, it gave rise to a small vesicle, but produced no effect upon the mucous membrane. Similar experiments were made upon animals by Bretonneau, but without communicating the disease. Yet it is stated that a boy, at the College of Fleche, who was affected with chilblains, was attacked with pseudo-membranous eschars between the toes, in consequence of walking barefoot over the floor of the infirmary, which was covered with the sputa of a comrade labouring under diphtheritis.*

On the other hand, it has been contended that the simultaneous appearance of the disease in several members of the same family, or the occurrence of a succession of several cases among individuals inhabiting the same locality, do not justify a belief in contagion, since similarity of organization and temperament, which often exists under such circumstances, would be apt to predispose those possessing it, to a similar form of disease, on their being exposed to an epidemic influence. It has been often observed, moreover, that when the disease breaks out in a family, or school, only a part of the members sicken, although free intercourse exists between them; that when persons already affected with it, are removed from the atmosphere where they contracted the malady, they do not transmit it to others, who may be brought in relation with them. Bourgeois,† has mentioned some interesting examples of this kind, which occurred during the epidemic of St. Denis, and in several instances which have fallen under my observation, during the present and preceding seasons, one, two, or more of the members of a family have been seized by the disease, while all the rest have escaped, although free intercourse existed.

An examination of the whole grounds, seems to justify the conclusion, that diphtheritis, in both its forms, depends upon an epidemic constitution. Yet under particular circumstances, as where many persons are crowded together, where ventilation is imperfect, and cleanliness is neglected, there can be no question of the generation of a contagious influence, capable of transmitting the disease from one person to another. Bretonneau, Trousseau, Bourgeois, and Guersent, all mention instances, which must be deemed conclusive upon this point.

Pathology.—The anatomical characters of diphtheritis, in both its forms, have been so fully described above, that little remains to be said upon that subject. The most striking feature is, the pulaceous, or pseudo-membranous deposit upon the mucous membrane of the throat and adjacent parts—sometimes preceded, or even accompanied by small vesicles,

* Guersent. Dict. de Med. Art. Angina Membranacea.

† Mémoires de l'Académie Royale de Médecine.

of a whitish, or purple colour. The membrane is also inflamed, and raw upon the surface, but is far less frequently ulcerated, than was formerly supposed. In the proper pseudo-membranous form of the disease, gangrene is of rare occurrence, although the false membranes very often assume a dark, or black colour, and a flocculent appearance, from which they might, on a superficial examination, be taken for gangrenous eschars. Gangrene and sloughing are of common occurrence in angina maligna; and often extend deeply into the surrounding parts. Most of the other anatomical characters observed in the disease, relate to the accidental complications. They consist, chiefly, of lesions of the respiratory, digestive, and auditory apparatus, in which traces of inflammation and false membranes are often discovered.

The pathology of the disease is difficult to explain. There is obvious hyperemia of the mucous membranes, with impairment of nervous energy. Yet there is something peculiar in the inflammation, which imparts to the disease all its distinguishing characters. Bretonneau and his followers tell us, it is a *specific inflammation*; but this furnishes no explanation of the several elements composing the morbid process. Broussais, Emangard, and others, affirm that diphtheritis is primarily a gastro-enteritis, the affection of the throat being merely a complication. By the first of these writers, it is said to be a species of typhus, with predominance of guttural inflammation; and in speaking of the cause of the fever, he affirms that it is a gastro-enteritis, such as is observed in low and humid situations—upon the borders of rivers, in the vicinity of marshes; in all localities, in short, where the temperature is depressed, and the air charged with humidity, malarious exhalations from animal and vegetable substances in a state of decomposition, fogs, &c.*

Gastro-enteritis is certainly one of the most frequent complications of the disease, but cannot be considered the source of its leading peculiarities; nor can all its local phenomena be explained by a reference to a state of acute hyperemia of the nervous membrane of the fauces, with an exudation of coagulable lymph, as maintained by Andral. There is something in the predisposition, which impresses upon the inflammation a character totally distinct from that of ordinary phlogosis. Naumann supposed that some change is wrought, by the epidemic influence, upon the properties of the blood, rendering its albuminous constituents incapable of being held in solution by the serum, in consequence of which the former exude upon the surface of the mucous membranes, in form of the pellicular deposit which characterizes the disease.† Consequently, when this predisposition exists, the occurrence of gastro-intestinal irritation will give rise to pseudo-membranous deposits on the surface of the inflamed mucous membrane.

In connection with this hypothesis, I may allude to the researches of Donné, which go to prove that, in the course of disease, the secretions become highly acid, so that, if we admit as valid the opinion of Raspail, that fibrine is merely albumen coagulated by an acid, we thus acquire a reason why, as represented by Naumann, the serum loses its power of holding the albumen in a state of solution. These opinions are not offered as established facts, but only as conjectures, which, however, if found to be

* Cours de Pathologie et de Thérapeutique Générales, tome i. p. 350.

† Handbuch der Medicinischen Klinik, bande iv. p. 81. Also, Hecker's Wissenschaftlichen Annalen.

correct by subsequent investigations, cannot fail to have an important influence in the explanation of the formation of false membranes, and many other adventitious products.

Be this as it may, the cause of the disease seems to exercise its first influence upon the ganglionic nerves, impairing their energy, and perverting their powers. A consequence of this is, a deterioration of the nutritive and secretory functions. The constituents of the blood are changed, either in quality or their relative proportions. The plastic forces are deranged, and the inflammation which supervenes is engrafted upon an organization incapable of sustaining those changes, by which restoration is so speedily effected under ordinary circumstances. The venous capillaries seem to be more deeply implicated than the arterial, and the powers of resistance or reparation being feeble, in consequence of the impairment of nervous energy, there is a strong tendency, on the part of the solids and fluids, to run into a state of dissolution.

Treatment.—Few diseases have been treated by such opposite methods as the one now under consideration. The conflicting opinions on this subject are a natural consequence of the diversified pathological views entertained by different authors; but have originated, in part, no doubt, from the dissimilar character of different epidemics. This latter circumstance has led some to regard it as a purely inflammatory disease, requiring a strictly antiphlogistic treatment. Others have had their whole attention taken up with its asthenic or adynamic character, and have, consequently, advised a stimulant or tonic practice; while a third class, making allowance for its variable nature, and watching its several changes, have pursued a mixed treatment, adapted to circumstances as they arise. The last is certainly the most rational procedure, as it is in strict accordance with the character of the disease.

In mild cases, especially such as are sporadic, gentle aperients, diluents, stimulating frictions to the throat, and emollient detergent gargles, will generally suffice to effect a cure. But where the febrile phenomena are urgent, with a high degree of inflammation of the throat, associated with a pultaceous or pseudo-membranous exudation, more active means will be demanded.

It then becomes a question of the propriety of resorting to the abstraction of blood, and other antiphlogistic remedies. Authority is strong, both for and against general blood-letting. Bretonneau, Trousseau, Bourgeois, and others, assure us that they found it altogether unavailing, and, in many cases, decidedly injurious. They make the same remark in reference to leeches applied to the throat. Many practitioners of equal respectability and experience, on the other hand, declare that they derived essential service from both general and local bleeding, when employed under proper circumstances. It is not impossible to reconcile these conflicting statements. Great diversity is observed in the phenomena of different epidemics, and also in the cases which occur under the same circumstances of time and situation. In stout, robust adults, and in vigorous children, possessing an active, sanguine temperament, if there be great heat of the skin, with an active pulse, and violent inflammation and swelling of the throat, the lancet cannot be well dispensed with in the early stage of the disease; and great benefit will be derived, under the same circumstances, from the application of leeches to the throat, and behind the angles of the jaw. This treatment was pursued with happy effect, by Gendron and

Guimier, in the same epidemic in which Bretonneau affirms that blood-letting was injurious. Bleeding was also practised by many of the older physicians, in the treatment of angina maligna, and was occasionally resorted to, by Fothergill and Huxham, in plethoric individuals. Its administration should be confined to the first stage of the disease, while the febrile symptoms are active, and to individuals possessing a vigorous circulation, with sufficient tolerance to endure the loss of blood, without the risk of prostrating the vital powers beyond recovery. Leeches may be often employed with advantage, where the lancet would be inadmissible. Neither can be prudently resorted to where the vital powers are already depressed; where the disease has existed for some time; where the skin is cool, the pulse feeble, and the fauces of a dark colour. Under these circumstances, even leeches will be injurious, and the bites are apt either to slough, or take on a diphtheritic form of inflammation. When the disease is complicated with gastro-enteritis, leeches may be applied, also, over the epigastrium. Emaugard recommends them to be applied to this region in ordinary cases, upon the supposition that the disease is primarily a gastro-enteritis.

Emetics were formerly more employed than at the present time. In the forming stage of the disease, if there be no gastric complication to contra-indicate their administration, they will often render essential service by their revulsive influence; and, at a later period, they sometimes render the breathing and swallowing easier, by expelling shreds of false membrane, and the viscid secretions that accumulate about the throat. Ipecacuanha, or sulphate of zinc, will be the best articles to excite vomiting; but neither of them should be employed when there are symptoms of gastro-enteritis.

The bowels should be kept soluble during the whole course of the disease. Mild saline aperients are best adapted to the fulfilment of this indication during the early stages; and, at a later period, small doses of castor oil, or laxative enemata, may be substituted. Active cathartics, especially of the drastic class, are never admissible, as they tend, inevitably, to increase the gastro-intestinal irritation, and hasten the development of diarrhoea. Calomel, however, has been strongly recommended by respectable authority. Its powers were long since extolled by Douglass, Bayley, and Holyoake, in this country, in the angina maligna; and it has recently been commended, in high terms, by several European writers. Bretonneau administered it in doses of three grains, every two hours, so that more than a drachm was often taken in the course of the day. He remarks that it exercised a striking influence in cleansing the throat and mouth of the false membranes, and producing an amelioration of all the symptoms. Bourgeois, Roche, and others, who resorted to it, under similar circumstances, derived no benefit from its employment, and its use has been abandoned by most of the recent writers on the subject. It should not be resorted to except in the early stage of the disease, and even then, it should not be employed when there are symptoms of high gastro-intestinal irritation. With these restrictions, it may be employed in alternative doses, combined or alternated with mild aperients. If there be any cases calling for the free administration of calomel, they are those in which the inflammation extends into the larynx, producing urgent symptoms of croup. Under these circumstances, if the subject be vigorous, and the disease in its first stage, large doses of calomel may be given, in combination with tartarized antimony or ipecacuanha.

Proper attention should be paid to the skin in every stage of the disease. At the onset, the tepid bath may be employed with advantage; and it will be useful, as long as the heat continues above the natural standard, to keep the surface constantly sponged with cold vinegar and water, or spirits and water. Cold acidulated, or emollient drinks, should be taken freely, and when there is much gastric irritation, with intense thirst, the patient will be much refreshed by taking frequently into the mouth, small fragments of ice. The use of this agent has been highly recommended by Dr. Jackson, of Northumberland, in scarlatina, and it is not less efficacious in the present disease. It should not be employed, however, when the larynx and bronchia are implicated. The mild salines, possessing a slight excess of alkalinity, may also be employed with advantage during the febrile stage. The most appropriate will be, the common neutral mixture, the tartrate of potash, the ordinary effervescing draught, or soda powders.

Much difference of opinion exists, in reference to the application of revulsives to the throat. Blisters and sinaplasms have been by some considered injurious—their tendency, according to those who object to their employment, being, to excite a diphtheritic form of inflammation in the part to which they are applied, or to give rise to gangrene. This is undoubtedly true in the advanced stage of the disease, after symptoms of colliquation have commenced. They should, therefore, be resorted to with great caution under these circumstances. At an earlier period, they may be employed with less risk; but in most cases, their place can be very well supplied with rubefacients. The throat may be rubbed with equal parts of olive oil and aqua ammoniæ, with oil of turpentine, or common camphorated soap liniment, combined with aqua ammoniæ and laudanum. A very efficacious liniment for this, and other purposes, may be composed of four ounces of strong aqua ammoniæ, and two ounces, each, of cologne water and camphorated spirits. In urgent cases, however, blisters may be applied to the throat, the nape of the neck, or the extremities—the back of the neck should be generally preferred. Hirschel, Pouteau, and Mours found them highly serviceable when there was great swelling of the throat, accompanied with an urgent sense of suffocation. Warm sinapized pediluvia afford great relief, and should be repeated frequently during the course of the disease.

As soon as the powers of life manifest a disposition to fail, a more cordial course of treatment will be demanded. This will be particularly necessary, when the throat assumes a gangrenous aspect, especially, if associated with this condition, there is coldness of the skin, feebleness of the pulse, petechiæ, and other ataxic symptoms. The best remedies under these circumstances will be, the acetate of ammonia, either alone, or combined with an equal quantity of aqua camphoræ; carbonate of ammonia; infusion of serpentaria; decoction of bark with aromatics; sulphate of quinine; and the muriatic, nitric, or sulphuric acids. In the ataxic and gangrenous forms of the disease, these remedies properly employed, will be productive of the happiest effects, and great benefit will be derived, under the same conditions, from the discreet use of wine. It may be used in form of whey, or added to the farinaceous articles of diet used by the patient. Great care, however, must be observed, not to resort to the stimulating treatment too early, and it may be proper to remark, that this practice will seldom be demanded, except in the last

stages of that form of the disease described under the appellation *angina gangrenosa*. In this state of the malady, a decoction of bark, combined with camphor, may be given in form of enemata, without the risk of producing dryness of the tongue, and other bad symptoms which sometimes follow its internal administration. A mixture of capicum, common salt, vinegar and water, has been much extolled in this form of the disease. Stewart, who was one of the first to employ it, used three teaspoonfuls of capicum, and two of common salt, beat into a paste, to which half a pint of boiling water, and the same quantity of good vinegar were added—the last after the infusion had become cold. Of this mixture, a tablespoonful was given to an adult, every half hour. It was administered to about four hundred patients, in the island of St. Christophers, by Mr. Stephens, and under its employment, many recovered, who had the disease under its most appalling forms.* The same practice has been very favourably noticed by several writers of respectability, and I remember an epidemic which prevailed several years ago in the interior of South Carolina, in which, with free gargling with the same infusion, the remedy was found highly serviceable.

Detergent gargles have always occupied a prominent rank in the treatment of *angina maligna*. Those most frequently employed are, alum, myrrh, the mineral acids, and infusion of bark. They may all be used with advantage, under proper circumstances; but within a few years, a more energetic local treatment has been extensively pursued, and in the hands of many physicians, particularly the French, has been confided in, almost to the exclusion of constitutional remedies. It consists of cauterizing the throat with strong muriatic acid, or the nitrate of silver. Bretonneau employed, at first, one part of muriatic acid, to two or three of honey, with which the throat was freely cauterized, once or twice a day, by means of a sponge probang, or a pledget of lint. He subsequently used the pure acid of the shops undiluted, in the same manner. The practice has been highly commended by Guersent, Bourgeois, Trousseau, Lepage, and several modern writers. When this disease exists under a mild form, the acid should be diluted to adapt it to the susceptibility of the parts, and any inflammation excited by the strong acid, must be combated by emollient gargles.

The nitrate of silver, both in solution, and in its solid form, has been lately much employed under the same circumstances. It was first introduced into practice in France, by Gendron, but was employed by Mackenzie, about the same time in England. It is said to be more efficacious, even, than the muriatic acid—proving speedily effectual in destroying the false membranes, rendering the separation and swallowing easier, and imparting a more healthy character to the surface of the inflamed mucous membrane. This article, applied directly to the affected part, in the solid form, by means of a port-crayon, or in solution, in the proportion of from ten to twenty grains to the ounce of water, has displayed the most beneficial results in the hands of Guersent, Girouard, Guimier, Authenac, David, Baudelocque, Bridel, Beldon, and others. When used in the liquid form, a sponge probang should be dipped in the solution, and slightly squeezed, to prevent any of the fluid from running into the pharynx. With this, the tonsils, soft palate, and fauces, should be gently touched, two or three times a day—the tongue being depressed by means

* Edinburgh Medical Commentaries, Dec. ii. vol. iii. p. 75.

of a spatula, so as to bring the diseased parts fully into view. When I wish to employ the solid nitrate of silver, which is much to be preferred, instead of employing the port-caustic, which is attended with the risk of the caustic breaking, and falling into the throat, I reduce the substance to powder, and roll the probang, previously moistened with mucilage of gum arabic and squeezed in it, until a sufficient quantity of the powder adheres to the surface. It is then brought to bear upon the diseased parts, as in the preceding case. The patient must be cautious not to swallow, and to obviate any mischief from this cause, the throat should be gargled with tepid water, or some other fluid, after each cauterization.

Diphtheritic inflammation of the throat has been unusually prevalent in Charleston, within the last twelve or eighteen months, during which period, it has been intercurrent with scarlatina, if not a modification of that disease itself. Having had occasion to treat a great many cases, presenting almost every degree of intensity, from the mildest, to the most severe, I have given the caustic practice a pretty full trial, and with a success far beyond what I had previously realized under the ordinary modes of treatment. In many cases, even of great violence, none but the mildest constitutional treatment was instituted—which, with the application of the nitrate of silver, or the muriatic acid, was found to conduct the disease to a favourable issue. In one case, in which both sides of the throat were affected with great intensity, I determined, with the view of testing the efficacy of the nitrate of silver, to limit its application to one side. In pursuance of this intention, the caustic was applied to the left side, which was most severely affected, while for the right, no local treatment was instituted, except emollient gargles. The disease was arrested on the side to which the caustic was applied, by the fifth day, while on the right, it continued until the eighth.

Other escharotic applications have been advised with the same view—as powdered alum, calomel and sulphate of copper. These substances, reduced to an impalpable powder, have been recommended to be blown into the throat, by means of a quill, or a glass tube. The two first articles have been highly recommended by Bretonneau, Guersent, and Bourgeois; and we are informed by Gmelin, that sulphate of copper is much used by insufflation, in some of the southern provinces of Russia. The great inconvenience attendant upon blowing these fine powders into the throat is, that portions of them are apt to pass into the glottis, and occasion distressing cough. This may be obviated by incorporating them with some glutinous substance, in which form, they may be applied to the affected part by means of the probang. Borate of soda was found serviceable by Bourgeois in cleansing the throat; and Guersent and Roche recommend a gargle of chloride of soda, of the strength of one drachm of the liquid to four or five ounces of water. When the patient is unable to gargle with the solution, it may be injected into the throat with a syringe—the nose being closed, to prevent its too ready escape. I have sometimes used, for the same purpose, tincture of cantharides, either pure, or diluted with an equal quantity, or two-thirds of water; and there is reason to suspect, that creosote, properly diluted, might prove beneficial in some cases. Bourgeois mentions the case of a female, who, obstinately refusing to submit to medical treatment, relieved herself of a very severe attack of the disease, in eight or ten days, by gargling with strong vinegar.

Charleston, January, 1829.

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J. H.

BIOGRAPHY.

ART. XI. *A Memoir on the Life and Character of Philip Syng Physick, M. D.* BY J. RANDOLPH, M. D.*

GENTLEMEN:—Permit me to express my sincere acknowledgments for the honor you have conferred, in appointing me to prepare a Memoir of the life and character of the long venerated President of this institution, the late Doctor Physick.

I am quite sensible, that the selection was owing rather to my connection with the illustrious deceased, and the intimate relation which existed between us for a long series of years, than to any peculiar ability I may possess, of recording his many virtues and high qualifications. I am fully aware also, of the weighty responsibility which that man assumes, who undertakes to transmit to posterity a portrait, which, properly executed, may serve as a light and example to illumine and instruct succeeding ages. The effort to accomplish this object I consider, however, a duty which I owe alike to you, and to the memory of Dr. Physick; and I shall endeavour to discharge my obligations in the best manner consistent with my means and abilities.

Most deeply must I deplore, at the commencement of my task, the want of proper materials, which, faithfully recorded, would enable Dr. Physick's great and exalted character fully to develop itself. Many of you, Gentlemen, cannot be ignorant, that the subject of our memoir throughout his whole life, entertained a most invincible repugnance to appear before the public in the shape of an Author; and this feeling induced him to exact the promise that none of his manuscript lectures or letters should be published.

The same modesty of feeling which he possessed to an extraordinary degree, and which forms a principal ingredient in the composition of a truly great and noble mind, caused him also to refuse to comply with the repeated requests made to him, to furnish sufficient facts upon which a sketch of his biography might be founded. Upon one occasion, after urgent solicitations he placed in my possession a few dates and incidents of his life, with the permission to make use of them; excusing himself, however, from completing the materials at that time, upon the plea of his ill health, and promising to furnish them at a subsequent period. His disinclination to fulfil this promise was so obvious that I did not feel myself justifiable in renewing the application.

* [This Memoir was read, in pursuance to appointment, before the Philadelphia Medical Society. To bring it within a compass which would render it more suitable to the pages of this Journal, the editor has, with the permission of the author, somewhat abridged it. The curtailment, however, is principally in the language, the facts are retained. Ed.]

Philip Syng Physick was born in Philadelphia on the 7th of July, 1766. His father, Mr. Edmund Physick, was an Englishman, and was characterised for possessing strong mental powers, with which were united strict integrity and considerable knowledge of the world. Previously to the separation of the United States from Great Britain, he held the office of Keeper of the Great Seal of the Colony of Pennsylvania; and subsequently to the Revolution he took charge of the estates belonging to the Penn family, and served as their confidential agent. Doctor Physick's mother was a most estimable, pious woman, who was blessed with a strong intellect, and evinced throughout her life, great judgment and decision of character. The Doctor never ceased to feel and express, the greatest filial love and reverence for these honoured parents. He frequently declared, that he was convinced that whatever was most useful and excellent in his character, was attributable to the early lessons and impressions which he imbibed from them.

By such parents as these the greatest care and attention would naturally be bestowed upon the education of their children. Fortunately his father had succeeded by great industry and attention to business, in accumulating a property which, in those days, was looked upon as considerable; and being thus in possession of ample means, he was enabled to carry out fully the plan of education which he designed for his son.

In doing so Dr. Physick informed me that his father was influenced by a degree of liberality very unusual in that, or indeed in any age. Double fees which he uniformly transmitted to the teacher testified the great importance which he attached to a liberal education, and the value which he thought should be set upon the sources from which it emanated. This was not only intended for an encouragement to the instructor to use his best endeavours on behalf of his pupil, but because the donor believed the charges for tuition at that day were not a fair equivalent for the services rendered.

Mr. Physick placed his son, when eleven years of age, in the academy belonging to the Society of Friends, in south Fourth street, under the tuition of Robert Proud. At this period Mr. Physick resided in the country, on the banks of the Schuylkill, several miles from the city, at an estate belonging to the Penn family. To facilitate the education of his son, he boarded him in the city, in the family of the late Mr. John Todd, the father-in-law of the present venerable Mrs. Madison. Even at that early age the subject of our memoir exhibited strong indications of those well regulated habits of order and method which adhered to him so closely throughout his life. Every Saturday after school broke up, he was allowed to go to his father's residence in the country, where he remained until the following Monday morning. He then not unfrequently was obliged to walk into town, and sometimes through most inclement weather. Notwithstanding this, he always presented himself at school exactly at the time of its opening. His teacher was so much gratified with this extraordinary punctuality, that he took pleasure in holding him up as an example to other boys, who, though living in the vicinity of the school, were too apt to be remiss in making their appearance at the proper hour.

Young Mr. Physick remained at this academy until he entered the collegiate department of the University of Pennsylvania. He then passed through the usual course of studies prescribed in that institution, and took

the degree of Bachelor of Arts in May, 1785. I am not aware that any thing remarkable occurred during the period of his collegiate studies.— That he was a diligent and exemplary student cannot for a moment be questioned. It is well known that he was particularly successful in acquiring a thorough and intimate knowledge of the classics, of which he retained sufficient, amid all his engagements, to be able to translate them with facility, to the time of his death.

In June, 1785, he commenced the study of medicine, under the superintendence of the late Dr. Adam Kuhn, well known as the pupil of Linnæus, and a most distinguished and successful practitioner, and then Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine in the University of Pennsylvania. Of the particular motives which influenced young Mr. Physick in the choice of this profession I am unable to speak. It does not appear that he at that period evinced any strong predilection for this department of science. Probably he was in a great degree governed by the wishes of his father; and so strong were his feelings of filial obedience that I am very certain that he would at any time readily have yielded his own wishes to those of his parents. The following anecdote is traditionary in the family. His father, whilst handling a knife, had the misfortune to cut one of his fingers; and the wound proved to be so severe that he was obliged to engage the services of a medical friend. Upon one occasion his son begged of him to be permitted to apply the necessary dressings and bandage to the finger: his father consented, and was so much surprised at the great skill and dexterity which his son displayed in making the applications, that he determined to make him a surgeon.

If it be true that we are indebted so exclusively to Mr. Physick for directing his son's attention to the study of medicine, to what an immeasurable extent does it not increase the amount of obligation and gratitude that we owe to him?

Dr. Physick was remarkable through life for feelings of the most acute and susceptible nature. It may be truly said of him that he possessed a soul feelingly alive to the miseries and sufferings of others. He could not himself support pain with an ordinary degree of fortitude, and it is undeniable, that he was extremely unwilling to inflict it upon others. This tenderness of feeling, which existed strongly in the days of his youth, continued in full force as long as he lived, as I shall have occasion to show during the progress of this memoir. He used frequently to declare at this period of his life, that he never could be a surgeon. Little was he aware, that he was destined to afford a complete illustration of the position, that the practice of medicine and surgery, so far from hardening and rendering callous the feelings, has a direct contrary tendency, and serves pre-eminently to soften and refine them. His example, as well as the result of our whole experience upon this subject, demonstrates that for a man to become a great and good surgeon, it is absolutely necessary for him to possess to the fullest extent, the best and kindest feelings of our nature.

The following incident, which occurred to Dr. Physick, and which was in fact characteristic, may not be deemed uninteresting. Soon after he commenced the study of medicine, it was announced that an amputation would be performed upon a certain day, at the Pennsylvania Hospital.— His preceptor, Professor Kuhn, wished him to witness this operation, but

understanding perfectly well the peculiar temperament of his pupil, he advised his father to accompany him; and fortunately too, inasmuch as Dr. Physick became so sick during the operation that it was necessary that he should be led from the amphitheatre before it was concluded.

Dr. Physick continued his medical studies under the superintendence of Professor Kuhn, for three years. In those days it was customary for the student of medicine, previously to obtaining the honours of the doctorate, to go through a much more extensive course of reading than is now deemed necessary. By the direction of his preceptor, Dr. Physick read through most diligently and faithfully, many voluminous works of the older medical writers, some of which, if not absolutely obsolete at the present day, are only used as works of reference. We have abundance of evidence, that even at that early period of his life, Dr. Physick evinced the most resolute determination to qualify himself by every possible means, for assuming a most useful and honourable standing in his profession: and there cannot be a question but that he must have gleaned from amidst this great mass of laborious reading, much valuable information, which he subsequently applied to an excellent purpose.

Dr. Physick's whole deportment during his pupillage, was so perfectly correct and satisfactory, as to merit the entire approbation of Professor Kuhn: and it is well known, that Dr. Physick always cherished feelings of the warmest affection and regard for his venerable preceptor.

In addition to the instruction which Dr. Physick received from Professor Kuhn, he attended at this period the medical lectures delivered in the University of Pennsylvania. He did not, however, graduate in medicine in that institution. The opportunities for the acquisition of medical knowledge offered by the schools and hospitals of this country, then in its infancy, were too limited to satisfy either his conscience or his ambition. He could not convince his mind that his knowledge of medicine was sufficiently enlarged to warrant him in assuming the deep and important responsibilities attendant upon the practice of a profession which involved the lives and happiness of his fellow creatures. For the completion of his education, he entertained an ardent desire to visit Great Britain, and to avail himself of the advantages which were afforded by the great schools and hospitals of London and Edinburgh. His father happily coincided with these views, and determined upon accompanying his son to Europe. Accordingly they embarked in November, 1788, and arrived in London in January, 1789.

Dr. Physick's sole object in going abroad was to acquire medical information. He had no desire to partake of the gaities and amusements of an European capital. I repeat, with him the grand consideration was the acquisition of knowledge: to this he applied himself with the most ardent devotion, and never permitted amusements of any kind to turn him aside from its pursuit.

Fortunately for Dr. Physick, his father's connections in London were such, that he was enabled to introduce his son to some of the most learned and polished society, of that great metropolis. An intercourse of this kind created for him an influence and gave him opportunities by means of which his cherished views were considerably promoted. All who ever saw Dr. Physick must have been struck with the exceeding dignity and courteousness of his manner. For this no doubt he was principally in-

debted to nature, though it must have been improved and confirmed by his association with the elevated society which he enjoyed whilst abroad. By means of this same influence Mr. Physick succeeded in securing the consent of Mr. John Hunter, then one of the most celebrated anatomists and surgeons of the age, to receive the subject of our memoir under his immediate care and tuition.

Dr. Physick considered this as the most important era in his professional life. He early became convinced of the extraordinary advantages which he might derive from this connection with Mr. Hunter, and proceeded accordingly to devote himself with the most ardent zeal to the study of practical anatomy and surgery. By dint of constant and unwearyed application to his studies, aided also by a course of unceasing and untiring dissections, he soon made rapid advancement in the attainment of his objects, and what was also of much consequence, secured to himself the approbation and esteem of his great master. Mr. Hunter, in fact, was so well pleased with the zeal, industry, and correct deportment, of Dr. Physick, that he took pleasure in acknowledging him as a favourite pupil, and bestowed upon him, with the most unreserved confidence, the full benefit of his advice and experience. During this period Dr. Physick attended regularly the lectures delivered by Mr. John Clark and Dr. Wm. Osborne on Midwifery.

Among the manuscript papers left by Dr. Physick which have fallen into my possession, is a note book, kept by him during his stay in England, in which he recorded such facts and incidents as came under his observation, which he supposed might be of service to him subsequently. I take the liberty of making two or three extracts from these notes, in order to exemplify the careful manner in which he performed this duty, and the pains which he took to treasure up all the information which he gained.

“February, 1789.—Visited Mr. Hunter. In the evening, after being entertained with tea, coffee, and general conversation, Doctor Baillie exhibited a preparation.” [He then goes on to describe the preparation; which, although exceedingly interesting to the medical profession, it would not be proper to insert here.]

*“February, 1789.—Mr. Home performed an operation on a sheep which had the staggers, in the following manner. After making a crucial incision through the integuments of the cranium, he applied the trephine, and removed a portion of the bone from the upper and middle part of the cranium. When this was done, he introduced a pair of small forceps, with which he extracted a *tenia hydatigena*. The effect was, that the sheep, being set at liberty, stood on its legs, which before it could not do. This, however, was only a temporary amendment, as it died about twenty hours after the operation was performed.”*

“November 15, 1789.—Mr. Cruickshank related the particulars of a case of hydrothorax, in which, upon opening into the right side of the chest, he evacuated nine pints of water, and in the left side there was found one pint. The lung of the right side was compressed to a small size, and instead of feeling spongy as common, it was solid and fleshy, and quite incapable of being dilated by air, so that the respiration was carried on by the left lung altogether. The patient, during his life, was incapable of sitting or standing up, feeling great pain when he attempted it; but was quite easy in bed when lying on his right side, but could not lie on his left side. His pulse, for near two months before his death, was quite regular, though before that time it had been otherwise, and the apothecary who had attended him had suspicions of hydrothorax. There was a swelling in the abdomen, which was very painful to him. This proved

to be a cancerous tumour of the whole of the omentum, which, being very heavy, when he attempted to get up gave him the pain mentioned before."

"Mr. Cruickshank said that he saw a case of hydrothorax where there was no pulsation to be felt, either in the carotids, or in the arteries at the wrists, or in the groin, nor could any motion be perceived at the part where the heart is usually felt pulsating; and the patient continued in this state for two months."

Dr. Physick continued to prosecute his studies with the most exemplary perseverance and industry, under the immediate superintendence of Mr. Hunter, throughout the year 1789. On the first of January, 1790, he was appointed House Surgeon to St. George's Hospital for one year, the usual period of that service in the institution. This appointment he owed exclusively to the patronage and influence of Mr Hunter. The advantages of such a situation to the student of medicine, in facilitating his acquisition of practical knowledge and skill, were of the most important character; and were so well known as to cause the place to be sought after by numerous applicants, most of whom, from the circumstance of their English birth alone, it might be supposed, could have had an influence which would have rendered them successful competitors against a foreigner for the place. Here were exemplified in the most happy manner, the important advantages which Dr. Physick derived from the favourable impressions which Mr. Hunter had imbibed respecting his general worth, his talents, and his acquirements. These considerations induced Mr. Hunter unhesitatingly to exert the whole of his influence in behalf of Dr. Physick, with what effect has been stated.

A few months after this period, Dr. Physick had so severe an indisposition, that Mr. Hunter became alarmed about him, and was on the eve of insisting upon his return to America. This attack, no doubt, was principally owing to the laborious life which he led, and the close confinement to which he subjected himself. Providence, however, for its own wise and beneficent purposes, thought proper to restore him to health, to the great delight and gratitude of his parents and friends.

It was during the period of his remaining at St. George's Hospital, that Dr. Physick acquired a vast deal of that surgical skill and dexterity which laid the foundation of his subsequent greatness. Having his whole time occupied in administering to the wants of such unhappy objects as were suffering from the effects of accidents or disease; being constantly engaged in applying the necessary bandages and dressings to fractured bones, dislocations, wounds, and injuries of every description, and seizing hold, as was his invariable custom, of every such opportunity of making himself minutely acquainted with the most perfect manner of performing these services, he soon became remarkably expert in all his manipulations, and acquired a degree of experience which increased greatly his stock of practical knowledge. He indeed exhibited a degree of neatness and dexterity in the application of bandages and dressings never excelled probably by any other surgeon.

During the period of his services in this institution, he learned also the manner of constructing and contriving several kinds of instruments and apparatus, which he subsequently was the first to introduce into this country, to the great benefit of our art.

An anecdote frequently related to me by Dr. Physick, connected with his early appointment to St. George's Hospital, I may be pardoned for mentioning here, notwithstanding it has already been promulgated from

another source. His success in obtaining this situation caused some slight degree of dissatisfaction on the part of some of the disappointed applicants, who conceived that their claims for the situation were stronger than his. In consequence of this, Dr. Physick perceived that they evinced uncommon curiosity respecting his manner of discharging his duties, and were disposed to scrutinise his actions with the greatest strictness. A short period after commencing his services, a patient was admitted into the hospital with dislocation of his shoulder; the head of the humerus being lodged in the axilla. Fortunately the accident was quite recent. It so happened that at the time the man was admitted, the whole class were in attendance at the house. They, of course, were exceedingly anxious to witness the manner in which the reduction would be effected, and Dr. Physick was well aware that his method of restoring the bone to its natural situation would be severely criticised. He directed the patient to be seated upon a high chair, and then proceeded to examine the injured shoulder, questioning the man as to the manner in which the accident had occurred. Whilst making these inquiries, he placed his left hand in the axilla, and taking hold of the lower end of the humerus with his right hand, he made all the extension in his power, then suddenly depressing the elbow of the patient, he dislodged the head of the bone, which glided instantaneously into the glenoid cavity.

In relating this incident, Dr. Physick never assumed to himself much merit for his success, but rather ascribed it, in a great degree at least, to the favourable nature of the case. His characteristic modesty, however, induced him to underrate his services; his success was doubtless principally owing to that unrivalled address and dexterity of which he subsequently proved himself to be so complete a master. The treatment of this case produced the most happy influence in promoting the interest and comfort of the doctor during the remainder of his stay in the hospital. He stated that from that time forward he always enjoyed the uninterrupted regard and respect of the medical class.

In January, 1791, the period for which he had been elected to St. George's Hospital having expired, he quitted the institution, carrying with him the warmest testimonials, from its proper authorities, of his medical qualifications, and also of his general good conduct. They went so far as to declare, that instead of considering him to lie under any obligations to the institution, they considered the institution indebted to him for the many benefits he had conferred upon its unhappy inmates, and for the useful results which had been produced by his singular zeal and abilities. He now received his diploma from the Royal College of Surgeons in London.

Soon after leaving St. George's Hospital, Dr. Physick received from Mr. Hunter a mark of respect and esteem, which was in the highest degree gratifying to him, and more particularly so as it furnished conclusive evidence of Mr. Hunter's entire confidence in his professional skill and attainments. Mr. Hunter invited him to take up his residence with him, to become an inmate of his house, and to assist him in his professional business; he also held out inducements to him to establish himself permanently in London.

Notwithstanding the tempting nature of these offers, and the great advantages which Dr. Physick might have derived from accepting them, it did not comport with either his own designs, or those of his father, that he

should exile himself from his native country. In accordance with the plan previously laid down for the completion of his medical education, he was to visit Edinburgh, in order to graduate in medicine in the University of that city. He, however, gratefully accepted Mr. Hunter's invitation to reside with him until this period should arrive; and accordingly he remained with Mr. Hunter, and assisted him, not only in his professional business, but also in the prosecution of his physiological experiments, and the making of anatomical preparations, until May, 1791, when he took his final leave of London. I may notice that his father had, previously to this period, returned to America.

The parting between Mr. Hunter and Dr. Physick was painful to the latter to an extreme degree, and certainly the most distressing event which occurred to him during his stay in London. The ties which bound him to Mr. Hunter were of no ordinary description. Mr. Hunter had not only extended towards him the warmest friendship and regard, but had also conferred invaluable benefits upon him, by giving him the advantages of his powerful aid and influence, and by promoting, by all the means in his power, his medical researches. These obligations could only be acknowledged on the part of Dr. Physick, by the most sincere and ardent devotion to his beloved preceptor; and in fact the admiration felt for Mr. John Hunter by Dr. Physick amounted to a species of veneration; he never ceased to consider him as the greatest man that ever adorned the medical profession. Could his honoured master have been permitted to witness the closing career of his pupil, he would have felt himself amply recompensed by the rich harvest of fame and usefulness which the latter had gathered, in consequence of his valuable aid and instructions.

Immediately after his arrival in Edinburgh, Dr. Physick entered with his usual ardour upon the prosecution of his studies. He attended very diligently the medical lectures delivered in the University, visited constantly the Royal Infirmary, was a careful observer of the practice pursued in that institution, and witnessed all the operations there performed. In May, 1792, having complied with all the requisitions demanded by the University, he obtained the degree of M. D. The subject of his thesis was apoplexy; and in compliance with the established regulations it was written in the Latin language. The original manuscript of this essay, which he first wrote in English, is now in my possession, and bears the most satisfactory evidence of having been prepared with a vast deal of careful attention.

To show the familiar knowledge of the Latin language which Dr. Physick possessed, I may relate the following anecdote. It is well known that the examinations for a medical degree in Edinburgh are conducted in Latin; and that there are many applicants for the honour who from not possessing a sufficient knowledge of that language are compelled to have recourse to the aid of a class of men termed *grinders*, whose occupation consisted in preparing students, by a system of drilling which should render them competent to reply to such questions as were likely to be put to them. It so happened that, a short time previous to the examinations, Dr. Physick was in company with a fellow-student from this city, and in reply to some allusion made by his companion to these grinders, the Doctor stated that he should not seek their aid, but that he was determined to rely upon his own knowledge of the language to carry him

safely through. His companion expressed much surprise at this statement, seeming to consider it as a vain boast on the part of Dr. Physick; and he intimated his doubts of the Doctor's capabilities, inquiring whether he meant to say that he possessed a sufficient knowledge of the Latin to enable him to carry on a conversation in that language. Dr. Physick satisfied him completely, by instantly addressing him in Latin, and continuing for some time to converse with him in that tongue.

Dr. Physick did not leave Edinburgh immediately after obtaining his honorary title: he remained there for a short period; and the manner in which he occupied himself may be fairly illustrated by the following extract from his note book.

"June, 1792.—Prepared for the house surgeon at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, an intussusceptio, in which the ileum had passed into the colon, and at last dragged down six inches of the colon. Most probably there was a stricture formed about the termination of the ileum, near the valve, as there were strictures in other parts of the intestines. At present a stricture of the ileum at this part certainly exists, but whether that did not arise from the binding of the inverted colon, and the inflammation consequent thereon, I cannot be sure. I was not present at the dissection of the body, and the person who took out the parts tore them very much."

Dr. Physick returned to his native country in September, 1792; and commenced the practice of his profession in Philadelphia. His office was situated in Mulberry Street near Third. That Dr. Physick entered upon his practical career under the most favourable circumstances will, I think, be readily admitted. I have already shown that, in addition to his own extraordinary qualifications, he had enjoyed the most ample opportunities of acquiring knowledge from sources distinguished alike for their exalted character and superior excellence. Nature also rendered her best aid for fitting him pre-eminently, by all external advantages, for the successful accomplishment of his objects. His personal appearance was commanding in the extreme. He was of a medium height; his countenance was noble and expressive; he had a large Roman nose; a mouth beautifully formed, the lips somewhat thin; a high forehead, and a fine penetrating hazel eye. The expression of his countenance was grave and dignified, yet often inclined to melancholy, more especially when he was engaged in deep thought, or in performing an important and critical operation. Dr. Physick rarely indulged in excessive mirth; he was, however, far from being insensible to playful humour, and on such occasions his countenance would be lighted up by a benign smile, which altered entirely the whole expression of his features. His manners and address were exceedingly dignified, yet polished and affable in the extreme; and when he was engaged in attendance upon a critical case, or in a surgical operation, there was a degree of tenderness, and at the same time a confidence, in his manner, which could not fail to soothe the feelings and allay the fears of the most timid and sensitive.

The introduction of a young practitioner of medicine to the notice of the community, is proverbially slow; and not unfrequently, before he can inspire a sufficient degree of confidence to lead to his employment, a length of time is requisite which, in some instances, produces bitter disappointment, and occasionally even utter hopelessness and despair. As might have been anticipated, there were but few professional calls made

upon Dr. Physick during the period of the first year after he had established himself in this city; and it is highly probable that, notwithstanding all the advantages of which he could boast, he would have been obliged to exercise an enduring degree of patience for a considerably longer period, were it not that in the summer of 1793, Philadelphia had the misfortune to be visited with that awful calamity, the yellow fever. It is not necessary in this place to give an account of the destructive ravages caused by this epidemic. The most ample and detailed description of its origin and progress, with all its concomitant circumstances, has been furnished by one of the brightest luminaries of the age; one who was a most prominent and efficient actor in the tragical scene; whose disinterested patriotism, brilliant imagination and splendid acquirements endeared him to the hearts of his countrymen, and who invariably evinced himself to be the warm friend of Dr. Physick. Need I add the name of Dr. Benjamin Rush?

The occurrence of the yellow fever afforded to Dr. Physick his first opportunity of proving to his fellow citizens his entire devotion to his professional pursuits, his utter disregard of all personal considerations which might interfere with the discharge of his duties, and the fearless intrepidity with which he exposed himself to danger, in order to contribute to the safety of others. As a means of preventing an extension of the disorder by removing, as far as possible, from overcrowded situations those who were attacked by it, and also to afford an asylum and the most efficient treatment to such as were destitute, the Board of Health, in August, 1793, established the yellow fever hospital at Bush Hill, and Dr. Physick, having offered his services, was elected by them physician to the institution. He immediately proceeded to the performance of his duties with singular ardour and ability; and during the time he remained in the hospital, rendered services which were acknowledged to be of the most important character, and which served to secure to him the approbation and esteem of the community at large. Dr. Physick himself did not escape an attack of the fever. It however yielded to treatment, although I heard him declare, but a short time previous to his death, that he did not think his constitution had ever completely recovered from the shock which it then received.

During a period of such general distress, history has at all times shown that the minds of the people are very apt to become excited and inflamed; and some threatening indications of riotous conduct having been exhibited whilst Dr. Physick was serving in the Bush Hill hospital, he was created an Alderman by the Governor of the State of Pennsylvania, for the purpose of enabling him to quell disturbances.

The publicity which Dr. Physick obtained, together with the favourable impression which he produced during his residence in the hospital, led to acquaintances which subsequently assisted in promoting his professional success. Among others, whose lasting friendship he then secured, was that of our late fellow citizen, Stephen Girard, at that melancholy epoch a member of the Board of Health, and who rendered the most important services throughout the epidemic, in alleviating the miseries and providing for the wants of the unhappy sufferers; services which should never be forgotten.

Mr. Girard was well known to have been a man of very eccentric habits

and strong prejudices. One of his peculiarities consisted in a general dislike of physicians; a prejudice founded upon his ignorance, and a vain belief that he knew as well from his own experience how to treat diseases, as most men who were regularly educated to the profession. He, however, made a few exceptions; and one of these was Dr. Physick, to whom, as long as he lived, he resorted for medical advice and assistance, whenever he deemed the case critical. Mr. Girard finally died a victim to his prejudices: he was attacked with an inflammation of his chest, and would not consent to lose blood until too late.

Dr. Physick, I believe, was the first to promulgate the doctrine, founded upon his own observations, that the yellow fever was not contagious; he also fully coincided with Dr. Rush in the opinion that it was of domestic origin. Dr. Rush at first dissented from the doctrine of the non-contagious character of yellow fever, but subsequently became convinced of its truth and importance. During the prevalence of the epidemic, Dr. Physick, in conjunction with Dr. Cathrall, made a series of post mortem examinations, which went far, not only to elucidate the true nature of the disorder, but also to indicate the best method of treatment. These dissections proved satisfactorily that the complaint was of a highly inflammatory character, that the stomach more particularly was the seat of great inflammation, and consequently confirmed the propriety of the antiphlogistic method of treatment instead of that of an opposite character, which had generally been employed. Thus Dr. Physick preceded the celebrated Broussais in pointing out the intimate relations which subsist between the condition of the stomach and the production of bilious and yellow fevers. It is well known, that as far back as the period to which we are alluding, Dr. Physick pronounced yellow fever to be gastritis; and he was so much influenced by his opinions of the necessity of avoiding all causes which could prolong or excite the gastric irritation that in one instance he ascribed the death of a patient labouring under this malady, to a relapse produced by swallowing a small quantity of chicken water.

After leaving the hospital he removed to the city and gave his undivided attention to his professional engagements. In the year 1794, Dr. Physick was elected, by the managers of the Pennsylvania Hospital, one of the surgeons to that institution. This period was the dawn of his great surgical fame and usefulness. The reputation sustained by the Pennsylvania Hospital for a long series of years, not only for the amount of benefits which it has conferred, but also on account of its excellent administration, are so well known as to render superfluous any encomiastic notice of it on my part. That Dr. Physick contributed largely to the support of its character and reputation, can be readily shown by a record of his services. It must be admitted, however, that his appointment to the hospital had a considerable influence in promoting his success, and leading to an extension of his business. The situation enabled him to add greatly to his stock of experience, and afforded him ample opportunities of perfecting himself in the operative department of his profession. I have already stated that in his manual procedures he exhibited the utmost degree of neatness and dexterity. Dr. Physick possessed pre-eminently all the qualifications requisite for a bold and successful operator. His sight was remarkably good; his nerves, when braced for an operation, were firm and immovable; his judgment was clear and comprehensive, and his re-

solutions once formed, were rarely swerved from. In addition to these he owed much to his thoughtful and contemplative cast of character, which induced him to deliberate and reflect intensely upon all the circumstances of his case, and to make elaborately beforehand every preparation which might become needful in the performance of his task.

In order to appreciate fully and correctly the amount of contribution, made by Dr. Physick to the department of surgery, it is important to call to mind the imperfect condition of the art in this country, at the period of his commencing his professional career. It is well known that the principles of science which should govern the treatment of many disorders were at that day very imperfectly understood. It is true that there were some members of the profession, possessed of great merits and learning, who devoted themselves especially to the cultivation of surgery. These gentlemen were quite competent to the performance of what were then considered the capital operations in surgery; still it must be confessed that none of them ever acquired the necessary degree of skill and pre-eminence to create an unlimited confidence in his abilities. In consequence of this there was no head, no rallying point in surgery, an appeal to which, when once made, would be regarded as decisive. We cannot feel surprised at the comparatively insignificant position which the science of surgery then held, when we reflect that, prior to the appointment of Dr. Physick, surgery was not taught in this city as a separate and distinct department. The professorships of anatomy and surgery were combined in the University of Pennsylvania, and the duty of teaching both branches devolved upon one individual. Under these circumstances it would have been extremely unreasonable to expect an efficient course of instruction when it is well known that the usual period allotted to a course of lectures upon either department, as now separated, is confessedly too limited.

Soon after Dr. Physick's appointment to the Pennsylvania Hospital, his mind became engaged in the consideration of a class of disorders of which that institution then had, and continues to have its full proportion, namely, ulcers. The treatment of these affections was at that day but little understood by our surgeons, and was for the most part exclusively empirical; consequently it was notoriously unsuccessful; and I am sorry to say, that there are good reasons for believing that limbs, affected with ulcers were not unfrequently amputated, which, by a judicious and skilful treatment, might have been preserved.

Dr. Physick devoted himself in an especial manner to ameliorating the condition of this class of patients, by establishing a more correct and efficient method of treatment; and in a short time the success of his practice was so evident as to add not a little to his rising fame and greatness. I have been told that at a very limited period after commencing his services, he had almost entirely cleared the wards of patients affected with ulcers. His method of treatment in cases of inflamed and irritable ulcers was exceedingly simple. He directed the patient to be confined to bed, enjoined rest; and where the ulcer was situated upon a lower extremity, he caused the limb to be considerably elevated. He next directed mild and soothing applications to be made to the ulcer itself; and in conjunction with this he made use of proper constitutional treatment. Where the ulcer partook of an indolent nature, he always preferred effecting the ne-

cessary stimulation by means of local applications, whilst the patient was confined to bed, to permitting him to walk about, as sometimes recommended.

Dr. Physick, during the period of his services in the Pennsylvania Hospital, made several valuable improvements in the treatment of fractures. Without entering minutely into the consideration of these, I may refer to his modification of Desault's apparatus for the treatment of fractures of the thigh. By increasing the length of Desault's splint, Dr. Physick accomplished a most important object, causing the counter-extension to be made more nearly in the direction of the axis of the limb, and also in keeping the patient more strictly at rest. This apparatus of Desault, thus modified by Dr. Physick, and with the block attached to the lower extremity of the splint by Dr. Hutchinson, for the purpose of making the extension in the direction of the limb, has been used in the Hospital for a long series of years, with the happiest results. Dr. Physick never ceased to regard it as the most complete and successful method of treating fractures of the thigh.

Fractures of the humerus occurring at or near the condyles, are exceedingly apt to be followed by a projection of the elbow. In some instances the deformity is so great as to give rise to most disagreeable consequences, more especially where the accident happens to a young female. To Dr. Physick is due the credit of having invented a method of treatment which has succeeded in many instances in effecting a complete cure, without the occurrence of any deformity. This treatment consists in applying to the injured limb two angular splints, which should extend from near the shoulder down to the extremities of the fingers. In addition to this he directs the patient to be kept in bed, "with the arm flexed at the elbow, and lying on its outside with the angular splints, supported by a pillow."

In cases of fracture of the lower end of the fibula, where the accident is accompanied with dislocation of the foot outward, Dr. Physick was in the habit, many years since, of treating the fracture upon a plan precisely similar to that recommended by Baron Dupuytren. To which of these gentlemen is due the priority of the invention, I am unable to say.

In the treatment of dislocations, the highest commendation is due to Dr. Physick, for being the first to carry into full effect a plan of treatment which, although originally suggested by Doctor Alexander Munro, of Edinburgh, was never put into execution, so far as I can learn, prior to its employment by Dr. Physick. I allude to the use of copious blood-letting, carried, when necessary, even ad deliquium animi, in order to produce a complete relaxation of the muscular system, and thereby facilitate the reduction of the dislocated bone. By this method of treatment, in very many instances, old and difficult dislocations have been reduced, which otherwise would have been irremediable, and limbs thus restored to usefulness.

In the year 1794, Dr. Physick was elected one of the physicians to the Philadelphia Dispensary; and during the period he held this appointment, he performed his duties with the strictest fidelity. He subsequently was appointed one of the consulting surgeons to this institution, and retained the situation till the time of his death.

From a reference to Dr. Physick's papers, it appears, that his profes-

sional engagements increased very considerably in the year 1795. About this period, his prospects of establishing himself in practice became exceedingly flattering. During the year 1795, he commenced keeping a journal of the most remarkable and interesting cases which occurred in his practice, more especially those of a surgical character. This journal is continued up to the year 1810, although in consequence of the multiplicity of his engagements about this period, we have to regret, the number of cases inserted is very considerably lessened. The first case recorded in the note book, is that of a lady affected with blindness from cataract. In this case, he performed the operation of extraction of the opaque crystalline lens, with complete success, and restored his patient to sight.

I may mention here that Dr. Physick's favourite operation for cataract was that of extraction, and he always performed it whenever the condition of the eye was suitable. He acquired such a perfect degree of skill in extracting the lens, that his operations were almost invariably followed by success. I am of opinion that his operations upon the eye, in conjunction with those for stone in the bladder, did as much in establishing his great surgical character as any others which he performed. Operations of this nature, when successfully executed, in that day, were widely known. His first operation of lithotomy was not performed, however, until the year 1797. He subsequently performed it, as is well known, in numerous instances, with extraordinary facility and success. In performing his first operation of lithotomy, he accidentally divided with his gorget the internal pudic artery. The hemorrhage from the wounded vessel was exceedingly profuse. He immediately compressed the trunk of the artery with the fore finger of his left hand, next passed the point of a tenaculum under it, and a ligature was then cast round it and firmly tied. This of course arrested the hemorrhage, but the ligature included along with the artery a considerable portion of the adjacent flesh. To obviate this inconvenience Dr. Physick subsequently contrived his celebrated forceps and needle, for carrying a ligature under the pudic artery. Since that period this instrument has been in general use for securing deep seated vessels. It has twice been successfully employed in the operation of tying the external iliac artery; in the first instance by the late lamented Doctor Dorsey, a favourite nephew of Dr. Physick's and one to whom he was ardently attached, and in the second instance by myself. No higher commendation could be bestowed upon this instrument than may be inferred from the numerous modifications which have since been made of it. I must be permitted to declare, that in my opinion, the original instrument, as designed by Dr. Physick, has never been excelled, either in point of ingenuity or utility.

To facilitate the division of the prostate gland and neck of the bladder, in the operation of lithotomy by means of the gorget, Dr. Physick suggested a valuable improvement to the instrument as used by Mr. Cline, which has since been almost universally adopted in this country, and has received the entire sanction and approbation of our most distinguished surgeons. A full description of Dr. Physick's gorget was published in the year 1804, in Coxe's "Medical Museum." The modification consists in having the gorget so constructed, that a perfectly keen edge may be given to that part of the blade which commences the incision, and which is connected to the beak of the instrument. For this purpose the beak and blade are separable, and so arranged that the blade may be connected to

the stem and firmly secured by a screw. Without this arrangement it is exceedingly difficult to impart a fine edge to that part of the blade which is contiguous to the beak, and inasmuch as the incision of the neck of the bladder is commenced at that point, the success of the operation must necessarily be much influenced by it.

During Dr. Physick's attendance at the Pennsylvania Hospital, in the year 1796, a case occurred in which the patient, a young man, had laboured under a suppression of urine for forty-eight hours. The bladder was so much distended that it rose above the umbilicus, and the patient was suffering intense agony. Dr. Physick made repeated attempts to introduce catheters of different sizes into the bladder, in order to draw off the urine, but without success. He next took a bougie and succeeded in introducing it into the bladder, but upon withdrawing the instrument, no urine followed. The idea then struck him that he might fasten the point of a bougie upon the extremity of an elastic catheter, so as to conduct the catheter into the bladder and allow the urine to flow through it. He immediately carried his plan into execution, and succeeded most happily in completely relieving his patient. Since then this method has been frequently resorted to with great success, in cases where, owing to enlargements of the prostate gland, strictures of the urethra, and other causes, the common catheter could not be passed into the bladder. Dr. Physick communicated an account of this case to Dr. Miller, which is published in the *New York Medical Repository*, vol. vii. p. 35, together with his method of preparing the instrument, subsequently described in *Darsey's Elements of Surgery*; some experiments on the treatment of gum elastic by spirit of turpentine and ether, and, also a method of coating catheters with gum elastic.

In the treatment of strictures in the urethra, Dr. Physick displayed the most enviable degree of skill. It is true, he made the management of this disorder a particular study, and the tact and dexterity which he exhibited in dilating a stricture, was sufficient to excite the warmest admiration.—What department of surgery indeed was there which was not in some way or other enriched by his labours? Among his other contributions, however, let us notice his invention of an instrument, in the year 1795, for the purpose of cutting through a stricture which had refused to yield to the ordinary methods of treatment. This instrument consists in a lancet concealed in a canula, which is passed down the stricture, and then the lancet is pushed forward so as to effect its division. Afterwards, a catheter or bougie should be introduced and worn for some time, in order to produce the necessary permanent dilatation. The success attending this method of treating strictures, which have resisted all other attempts at dilatation, has now become familiar, and may be considered one of the most important and useful operations in surgery. It should be stated also, that in some cases of complete retention of urine from stricture of the urethra, this method of dividing the stricture by means of the lancet has obviated the necessity of puncturing the bladder.

If I mistake not, Dr. Physick was the first who pointed out to our surgeons the method of constructing the waxed linen bougie. He informed me that soon after his return from Europe he was engaged in attendance upon a patient, in conjunction with his much esteemed friend Dr. Wistar. It so happened that in the treatment of this case there was occasion for a

bougie of a particular size and shape. Dr. Wistar regretted very much not possessing such an instrument, and he expressed his doubts of being able to procure one. Dr. Physick told him that he need not be uneasy, for that he would furnish the instrument; and accordingly he constructed one himself of the precise kind which they wanted, to the great surprise and gratification of Dr. Wistar.

I may mention that in the treatment of strictures of the urethra, Dr. Physick invariably preferred using waxed linen bougies of his own make to either the metallic or imported gum elastic bougies. I do not hesitate to assert, however, that from long practice and dexterity, he acquired the art of making a most beautiful and perfect instrument of this kind. It is proper, however, to state, that the gum elastic bougies which were imported into this country in that day, were of a very inferior quality to those which we now have. A general account of the method of preparing the waxed linen bougies is contained in "*Dorsey's Elements of Surgery.*"

During the years 1797, 1798, and 1799, the yellow fever reappeared in our city, and Dr. Physick was again found in the foremost rank of those who had to contend against its ravages. Whilst engaged in the performance of his duties, in the year 1797, he was attacked himself, for the second time, with the fever, and his illness was so severe that for some time but slight hopes were entertained of his recovery. His convalescence was exceedingly slow, and he was left in such an enfeebled state that he was advised by his medical friends to make an excursion into the country, in order to recruit his strength. He accordingly took this opportunity of paying a visit to his brother, who was living upon a beautiful farm, situated on the banks of the Susquehannah, in Cecil county, Maryland. He was somewhat amused, whilst performing this journey, at being informed by an innkeeper on the road that Dr. Physick of Philadelphia was dead. His health was greatly benefitted during the period of his sojourn with his brother, and it appears that he conceived a warm attachment to the place; inasmuch as after the death of his brother, many years subsequently, he became the purchaser of the estate, and during the latter years of his life he was accustomed to spend a part of every summer upon it.

During the prevalence of the yellow fever in 1798, Dr. Physick was again resident physician at the Bush Hill Hospital; and upon leaving the institution, after the subsidence of the epidemic, he was presented in a flattering manner by the board of managers, with some valuable silver plate, as an acknowledgment of their "respectful approbation of his voluntary and inestimable services."

In the winter of 1798, Dr. Physick read before the "Academy of Medicine of Philadelphia," an account of "Some Experiments and Observations on the mode of operation of mercury on the body." This paper was subsequently published in the *New York Medical Repository*, vol. v. p. 288. The result of these experiments and observations goes to disprove the opinion that the different preparations of mercury produce their effects on the system in consequence of their being absorbed and carried into the blood. The experiments made by Dr. Physick in order to detect the presence of mercury in the blood and saliva of patients undergoing salivation from that article, were repeated by Dr. Seybert, but both were unable to discover the presence of the metal, owing to the imperfect state of chemistry at that period.

I have already stated, that in consequence of the untiring zeal of Dr.

Physick in investigating the nature and phenomena of the yellow fever, aided by the ample opportunities which he enjoyed of prosecuting his researches, he was led to the adoption of some views which were not only of an interesting and novel character, but such also as had a most important bearing in elucidating the true pathology of the disease, and in establishing in consequence more correct therapeutic indications. It was after the subsidence of the epidemic of 1799 that he published in the *New York Medical Repository*, "Some Observations on the Black Vomit." In this communication he relates a series of careful and well conducted experiments, which prove most conclusively that the matter of black vomit, so far from being poured out by the vessels of the liver, as was the commonly received opinion, is produced by a secretion from the inflamed vessels of the stomach and intestines. These observations, showing that the effusion of black vomit must be regarded as one of the modes in which violent inflammation of the stomach has a disposition to terminate, not only went far in destroying the preconceived notions entertained by many physicians, that the yellow fever was a disease of debility, and that the black vomit was to be regarded as a putrid phenomenon, but also confirmed most satisfactorily the propriety of the antiphlogistic method of treatment.

The year 1800 formed a most eventful one in the life of Dr. Physick. During this year he formed a matrimonial alliance with Miss Elizabeth Emlen, a highly gifted and talented lady, and daughter of one of the most distinguished ministers of the Society of Friends. By this marriage he had four children, two sons and two daughters, all of whom are now living.

In the year 1800, a request was made to Dr. Physick in writing, by a number of gentlemen engaged in attending the medical lectures delivered in the University of Pennsylvania, that he would lecture to them on surgery. Among these gentlemen, who so fully appreciated his extraordinary qualifications, was included our present pre-eminently distinguished Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine, Dr. Chapman.

No man could feel more deeply the solemn responsibilities attendant upon such an enterprise than Dr. Physick. After mature deliberation, however, he determined to accede to their request, and this may be considered as the commencement of his labours as a lecturer.

The following anecdote, related to me by the doctor himself, will exemplify the ardour and zeal with which he entered upon the performance of his duties, and it illustrates also most happily the great advantages which may be derived from a word of encouragement and approbation, coming from a source in which entire confidence is reposed.

After preparing the lecture introductory to his course, he committed it to memory. Among the persons invited to be present at its delivery was his valued friend, Dr. Rush. The scene was a trying one to Dr. Physick. It was the first time he had ever publicly addressed an audience. I have been informed, however, that he acquitted himself extremely well. At the close of the lecture, Dr. Rush stepped up to him, gave him his hand, and congratulated him upon his success, saying to him very emphatically, "Doctor, that will do—that will do—you need not be apprehensive as to the result of your lecturing—I am sure you will succeed." Dr. Physick never forgot Dr. Rush's kind manner to him on this occasion. He assured me that it exerted a considerable influence in strengthening and confirming his resolutions to persevere. It is needless for me to say that

Dr. Rush's predictions respecting Dr. Physick's ultimate success in lecturing were fulfilled to the utmost. Five years subsequently to that period, the Professorship of Surgery was created in the University of Pennsylvania, and Dr. Physick was elected to the chair.

In the year 1801, Dr. Physick was appointed "*Surgeon Extraordinary*," and also one of the physicians, to the Philadelphia Almshouse Infirmary. I am not aware that any appointment similar to the former has been since made in that institution.

In 1802, he published in the New York Medical Repository, a case of hydrophobia. In this communication he gives an account of the appearances observed on dissection; and as a means of affording relief in similar cases, he suggests, in conjunction with other remedies, the propriety of performing the operation of tracheotomy. The following quotation is sufficiently explanatory of the views which he entertained.

"Reflecting on the symptoms which took place in the case above related, it appeared to me, that the dread of water arose chiefly from the convulsive or spasmodic contraction of the muscles of the glottis, which rendered the patient unable to breathe, and involved him in all the horrors of impending suffocation. When asked why he could not drink, he answered, that whenever he attempted to swallow any thing it took his breath away."

"Under the influence of these opinions, I am disposed to believe, that tracheotomy would have saved my patient, at least for a time, if it had not altogether prevented the fatal termination of the disease. I cannot suppose that the spasms of the muscles in hydrophobia would be attended with much danger to life, were it not for their influence in suspending respiration." * * *

I am not informed that he ever had an opportunity of testing the value of the foregoing suggestion, by the performance of the operation.

About this period, it may be said that the talents and acquirements of Dr. Physick began to be extensively known and appreciated, not only by the members of his own profession, but also by others. I may mention, that in this same year, (1802,) he was elected a member of the American Philosophical Society, a well merited tribute due to his rising greatness.

This year Dr. Physick devised and executed an operation which forms one of the most brilliant achievements of modern surgery, and has been productive of the most beneficial results to suffering humanity. On the 18th of December, he performed, in the Pennsylvania Hospital, his celebrated operation of passing a seton between the ends of an ununited fractured humerus, for the purpose of causing a deposition of callus, and thereby producing the consolidation of the broken bone. The patient was a seaman, who had had the misfortune to fracture his left arm, eighteen months previously, whilst at sea; and in consequence of the bones not having united, the limb was rendered nearly useless. At the expiration of five months after the performance of the operation he was discharged from the Hospital perfectly cured. Dr. Physick published an account of this case in the Medical Repository of New York, vol. i. 1804; and it was republished entire in the Medico-Chirurgical Transactions of London, vol. v. 1819.

It so happened that, in the year 1830, I was requested to visit a patient who was lying dangerously ill with remitting fever. A few days after my first visit, in riding past his door in company with Dr. Physick, feeling very uneasy about the condition of my patient, I requested the Doctor to step into the house and give me the benefit of his advice. He complied,

and upon entering the sick man's chamber he immediately recognised him as the individual upon whom he had performed the operation which I have just described, twenty-eight years previously. Upon questioning the patient he informed us that the arm which had been broken was quite as strong as his other arm, and that he had never sustained any inconvenience from the operation. The man died; and having obtained permission to make a post mortem examination, I procured his humerus, which I still have in my possession, and regard it as one of the most interesting and valuable pathological specimens extant. At the place of fracture, the two ends of the bone are perfectly consolidated by a mass of osseous matter, in the centre of which there is a hole, through which the seton had passed.

Since the performance of Dr. Physick's first operation, this method has been resorted to with entire success in numerous instances by himself and other surgeons, for the cure of ununited fractures, not only of the humerus, but also of some other bones. That this operation, like all others, occasionally fails, must be admitted; it is, however, generally conceded that it possesses many advantages over the method not unfrequently resorted to, of cutting down to the ends of the bone and sawing them off, as recommended by Mr. Charles White, of Manchester.

In describing that process M. Boyer declares it to be "painful, terrifying, and of dubious event." He once performed it on account of a proternatural joint, situated in the middle of the humerus; the limb mortified, and the patient died on the sixth day. Independently of the greater hazard attending this method of operating, it is unquestionably much more painful than Dr. Physick's; and although occasionally it succeeds perfectly, in many instances it has entirely failed.

It is a matter of much surprise and regret, that Mr. William Lawrence, of London, a gentleman distinguished for brilliant talents and extensive learning, in speaking, in his surgical lectures, of the different methods of operating for the cure of ununited fractures, should greatly undervalue the importance of Dr. Physick's operation, and limit exceedingly its successful results. To correct the false impressions which this statement might create, and as an act of justice due to the distinguished inventor of the operation, my friend Dr. Hays gave in his valuable periodical, the *American Journal of the Medical Sciences*, vol. vii, p. 267, a brief summary of numerous cases of ununited fracture successfully treated by means of the seton, collected from various sources. Dr. Physick was extremely gratified at the able manner in which Dr. Hays vindicated the merits of his operation, for the cure of artificial joint by means of the seton.

Dr. Physick's private journal, and also a book of cases, kept by his nephew, Dr. Dorsey, clearly evince that at this period Dr. Physick was occupied in attending to a most extensive and laborious practice. In Dr. Dorsey's note book are recorded the most interesting cases and operations occurring in the practice of Dr. Physick, to which he was a witness. It is exceedingly probable, that during that period there were but few operations performed by Dr. Physick, at which Dr. Dorsey was not present; for in some places he gives an account of important and capital operations performed almost daily by his uncle.

It has always been a subject of deep regret with the profession, that Dr. Physick should have evinced throughout his whole life such an extreme reluctance to the publication of the results of his valuable observations and

experience. What a fund of knowledge has in this manner been permitted to pass away, which might have been happily applied to ameliorating the miseries of humanity? Strange as it may appear, I unhesitatingly assert, that posthumous fame was not sought after by Dr. Physick. I am well convinced, however, that in the latter years of his life, he regretted very much himself that he had not published more for the benefit of his fellow beings; but at this period his disinclination and habits had become so confirmed that it was impossible for him to change them.

From the paucity of Dr. Physick's printed communications, and their considerable value, I make no apology for briefly noticing them. It has been necessary to collect them from various Journals. I consider it unnecessary to enlarge upon them, however, inasmuch as my friend, Dr. Benjamin Horner Coates, is engaged in preparing an edition of Dr. Physick's works, with commentaries on his doctrines and practices.

In Coxe's Medical Museum, vol. i. for the years 1804-5, there are published by Dr. Physick three papers, communicating cases occurring in his practice, together with practical suggestions, and by Mr. Bishop two, giving an account of improvements and modifications upon instruments made after the directions of Dr. Physick.

In the first paper, Dr. Physick communicates the particulars of a case of varicose aneurism, occurring at the bend of the elbow, in consequence of the artery being wounded in the operation of venesection; the lancet being pushed into this vessel through the vein. The blood escaped from the artery into the cellular membrane between it and into the vein, and formed a large pulsating tumour, in which the particular thrill accompanying varicose aneurisms was distinctly felt. The sac formed out of the cellular tissue went on increasing in size, until it became so firm that the blood was forced from it into the vein through the puncture in its lower side, with sufficient force to distend it very considerably for two or three inches above and below the sac. The size of the forearm had much diminished, and the hand was constantly cold. At length the skin covering the swelling became so thinned that the patient was very apprehensive that it might suddenly rupture. In this state Dr. Wistar and Dr. Physick advised an operation.

Dr. Physick performed this in the following manner. He divided the skin and cellular membrane covering the swelling, and then dissected completely round the tumours. After this he tied the trunk of the vein above and below its enlargement; and next he tied the artery above and below the sac. He finally dissected out the whole of the parts between the ligatures, including the aneurismal sac. Upon opening the sac its inside was found every where incrustated with bony matter; but the artery was perfectly sound and natural. In three weeks the wound healed, and the patient very soon recovered the entire use of the limb.

The second publication was a description by R. B. Bishop, surgeons' instrument maker, of the gorget, as constructed according to Dr. Physick's plan. I have already noticed this modification of the gorget in a former part of this memoir.

The third publication in the Medical Museum was exceedingly valuable and interesting, being the first annunciation of a new method of treatment, suggested by Dr. Physick, for the relief of a formidable disease, and one which had previously baffled the skill of the most experienced

physicians. In this communication Dr. Physick recommends the use of blisters for the purpose of arresting the progress of mortification. He states that he was induced to resort to this practice from a knowledge of blisters having been employed advantageously in curing erysipelatous inflammation; a practice which he learned from the late Dr. J. Pfeiffer. In this paper Dr. Physick gives an account of two cases of mortification which came under his own notice, in which he applied blisters to the mortified parts with the most beneficial effects. He also publishes two letters, one addressed to him by his friend, Dr. Benjamin Rush, and the other by Dr. Church; each of whom describes a case of mortification in which he employed blisters, upon Dr. Physick's recommendation, with perfect success.

It is scarcely necessary for me to add, that since that period, blisters have been frequently employed for the purpose of arresting the progress of gangrene and mortification, with the most successful results. As a local remedy, I believe it is entitled to a decided preference over all others. To be effectual, it should be large enough to cover the sound parts adjacent to the disease.

The fourth publication consists of a description, by R. B. Bishop, of the curved bistoury, as improved by Dr. Physick, for the operation of fistula in ano, with a plate. This well known instrument, thus modified by Dr. Physick, combines the advantages of both the blunt and sharp-pointed bistoury. Since the period of its invention it has been in general use.

In the fifth communication Dr. Physick describes the history of a case of luxation of the thigh bone forward, and the method which he employed for its reduction; and the paper is accompanied by a plate. Although this case is an exceedingly interesting one, it is unnecessary to notice it more particularly.

I have already stated, that at the period when Dr. Physick commenced his professional career, the organisation of the medical department in the University of Pennsylvania was so imperfect, that the chairs of Anatomy and Surgery were combined. To remedy this acknowledged deficiency, in the year 1805, the chair of Surgery was made distinct from that of Anatomy, and Dr. Physick was elected, I believe unanimously, Professor of Surgery.

It should be borne in mind, that he had previously, in the year 1800, complied with a request, made to him by a number of gentlemen engaged in the study of medicine, to deliver lectures on surgery. These lectures were delivered in the Pennsylvania Hospital; and he exhibited such positive and satisfactory evidence of his entire competency to the task which he had assumed, that he very soon became exceedingly popular as a teacher, and added greatly to his fame.

It is more than probable that the position which he now held as a lecturer on surgery, exerted no little influence in producing the change which was made in the medical faculty.

I presume it will not be denied that, however great the advantages may have been which accrued to Dr. Physick in consequence of his being appointed Professor of Surgery in the University of Pennsylvania, the institution itself derived equal advantages from his connection with its medical faculty. It is certain that, soon after his appointment, the number of students who resorted to this city to attend the medical lec-

tures, greatly increased; and although I freely admit that there were many co-operating circumstances, his efforts in behalf of the school being seconded by colleagues who possessed talents of so refulgent a character that the light shed from them has not yet passed away, still it is worthy of record, that the zenith of Dr. Physick's fame and usefulness was the period at which the University of Pennsylvania attained the acme of its reputation.

Having shown that Dr. Physick's efforts as a private lecturer were attended with the most entire success, we can readily believe that he was quite prepared to enter upon the duties of his new appointment. Inasmuch, however, as this situation opened to him a more extensive field of action than he had previously cultivated, he felt himself called upon to make renewed exertions.

It is almost impossible to conceive of the great amount of labour which he was in the habit of performing daily, during this period of his life. He has frequently told me that it was his custom, throughout the winter months, to rise at four o'clock in the morning. This hour being too early to disturb a servant, he was obliged to arrange his own fire. He would then sit down to his desk and prepare his lecture for the day; after which he would dress himself, and then take his breakfast, and leave his house between eight and nine o'clock, to attend to an extensive and laborious practice. In addition to all this, he discharged his duties as Surgeon to the Pennsylvania Hospital, and to the Alms House Infirmary. He used often to remark, that in order to obtain entire success as a practitioner of medicine, it was necessary to work hard. He told me that in London this idea was conveyed by the emphatic expression "Doctor or Mr. — is *working* his way into business." It will be conceded that no portion of his success ever came to him gratuitously; on the contrary, he made laborious exertions to obtain it.

Dr. Physick's manner as a public lecturer was extremely grave, dignified and impressive. His style was clear, simple and chaste. He was uniformly careful never to say too much. His choice of language was remarkably good, and he possessed the happy faculty of communicating knowledge agreeably and clearly to a degree which I have never known surpassed. Perhaps one great reason for this was, that he never undertook to instruct others upon subjects which he did not clearly comprehend himself. He attempted no display of oratory; neither did he permit his reason and imagination to run wild in the regions of theory and fancy. He found much better employment for his mind in constantly studying the realities of life, and in reflecting upon the best methods of promoting the welfare of his fellow creatures. His lectures were carefully prepared and written out. He did not at all approve of extemporaneous lecturing; as he thought that in lecturing upon scientific subjects, and more especially such as involved the lives and happiness of our fellow beings, no man had a right to place so much confidence in the strength of his memory as is implied in that practice.

Dr. Physick's course of lectures on surgery was eminently valuable, from being founded principally upon his own practical knowledge and experience, and also from his discarding all mere hypotheses; besides which his lectures derived an additional attraction and importance from the circumstance that his reputation for stern integrity and strict veracity was

so well known and established, that whenever he asserted facts to be true, they were implicitly believed.

As a letter-writer he was exceedingly exemplary and peculiar. I regret very much not having the privilege of inserting a few of his letters in this memoir. In general they were remarkably brief and pithy. He was excessively annoyed at receiving, and being obliged to read letters of an unmeaning and unnecessary length. It was the same with respect to books. I have often heard him complain of the hardship of being obliged to read through a volume of two or three hundred pages, to get at ideas which might have been embodied in ten or twenty.

The year 1809 has been rendered memorable in the annals of surgery, by the invention and execution of an operation by Dr. Physick, which, for the brilliancy of its conception and the important practical results which have ensued from it, has excited admiration and attention throughout the medical world.

In the month of January of that year, Dr. Physick performed his operation for the cure of artificial anus, which, as is well known, was completely successful. To those who are unacquainted with the nature of the loathsome malady just named, it is impossible to convey any adequate idea of the many afflicting circumstances connected with it; suffice it to say, that the unhappy sufferer is rendered disgusting, not only to himself, but to those around him. There are probably few persons who would not prefer death to existence complicated with a train of such insupportable evils. What an immense amount of obligation are we not under to him who, by the force of his genius and profound acquirements, was enabled to triumph over obstacles of such fearful magnitude, and provide a remedy for so hopeless a calamity! We are happy to say, that the debt of gratitude has not been left unpaid, and that Dr. Physick has received the homage of the profession for having achieved this invaluable discovery.

His method of performing this operation is now so well known that it is not necessary for me to communicate the details of it here. He was negligent in not making a printed publication of the method at the moment of its discovery; he, however, publicly taught it, in his surgical lectures annually, from 1809 to 1821, to classes of several hundred students.

You are aware that some years subsequently, one of the most distinguished surgeons of Europe, the late Baron Dupuytren, performed an operation upon a somewhat modified plan, but with similar views, and founded upon precisely the same principles; and that he claimed the merit of having invented the method, and appropriated to himself the consequent honours. It did not, however, by any means comport with the views entertained by the surgeons of our country, that the distinguished head of the profession should be dispossessed in so unceremonious a manner, of honours exclusively his own. Accordingly, in order to place the matter in its proper light, my friend Dr. Benjamin Hornor Coates, obtained from Dr. Physick the date of the operation, together with ample notes of the case, taken from his private journal, now in my possession, and also procured an account of the case as recorded in the manuscript case book of the Pennsylvania Hospital; and then published a full account of Dr. Physick's operation in the North American Medical and Surgical Journal for October, 1826, together with some valuable remarks upon Baron Dupuytren's method of operating, proving in the most satisfactory manner that the justly celebrated French surgeon promulgated the idea of the operation long after Dr. Physick.

Baron Dupuytren exhibited reluctance to yield his claims to this discovery; but before his death, he was, I believe, fully satisfied of the justice of Dr. Physick's claims to priority.

In the year 1835, Dr. Physick was exceedingly gratified at receiving a letter from his relative, Dr. Robert R. Dorsey, then residing in Paris, in which he informed him that M. Roux, the present distinguished successor to Baron Dupuytren as surgeon in chief to the Hotel Dieu, stated in a lecture introductory to his clinical course on surgery, in the presence of Professor Mott of New York, Dr. A. B. Tucker of this city, and a large class of medical gentlemen, that to Dr. Physick was unquestionable due the honour of having invented the operation for artificial anus, which had been claimed by his predecessor, Baron Dupuytren.

In the third volume of the "Eclectic Repertory," for October, 1812, Dr. Physick published an account of a new method which he had employed for the purpose of extracting poisonous substances from the stomach. In this communication he furnished the particulars of two very interesting cases, in which twin brothers, of the age of three months, had been thrown into a state of complete stupor, from which they could not be roused, from having had administered to each of them by their mother, one drop of laudanum, in order to allay the restlessness attendant upon whooping cough, under which they were both labouring. It appears that the vial from which the laudanum had been given had contained, several weeks previously, nearly one ounce of that medicine; but in consequence of having been left without a cork, it had evaporated so that the mother was able to obtain one drop only for one of the children, and in order to procure another drop, she put two drops of water into the vial, stirred it about, and then gave a drop of it to the other child. The poor mother was entirely ignorant of the immense additional strength which the dose had gained, in consequence of the evaporation which had taken place.

Each of these children had been thrown into convulsions. When Dr. Physick arrived at the house, he immediately directed an emetic of ipecacuanha to be given. This, however, could not be accomplished, as the children were incapable of swallowing. "The countenances of the children became livid, their breathing very laborious, with long intervals between the times of each inspiration, and the pulse in each very feeble. The pulse and respiration had almost ceased; and, indeed, the pulse could not be perceived, except a faint stroke or two, after that kind of imperfect and convulsive inspiration which is commonly observed in children just before actual death, accompanied with a convulsive action of the muscles of the mouth and neck." Under these circumstances, Dr. Physick saw that no time was to be lost, and as the children could not swallow, he determined to inject an emetic into their stomachs. For this purpose he introduced a large flexible catheter down the œsophagus, and through it he injected one drachm of ipecacuanha mixed with water, by means of a common pewter syringe. After waiting some little time for the operation of the emetic in vain, the stomach having in both instances completely lost its power of action, he injected a quantity of warm water, and then withdrew it by means of the syringe. He now repeated these operations again and again, until he had washed out the stomach thoroughly and removed all their contents.

By the time these operations were completed, however, all signs of animation in both children were entirely lost. Discouraging as these circum-

stances were, the doctor determined to persevere in his efforts to restore life; and accordingly he injected into their stomachs some spirits, mixed with water, and a little vinegar; and he also made use of external stimuli. In a few minutes the pulse and respiration returned in each child, and in the course of a short time both were regularly performed. One of these children, however, expired the next morning; the other completely recovered.

In a note to this communication Dr. Physick states, that the idea of washing out the stomach in cases where large quantities of laudanum or other poisons had been swallowed, occurred to him at least twelve years previously, and that he had constantly recommended it in his lectures. He states also that his nephew, Dr. Dorsey, had performed the operation of washing out the stomach in such a case in the year 1809. At the time Dr. Physick made this communication, he was under the full impression that he was the earliest inventor of this operation. In the same volume, however, of the *Eclectic Repertory*, p. 380, there is published a letter from him, addressed to the editors, in which he says that he considers it an act of justice to inform his medical brethren that the merit of prior invention belongs to Dr. Alexander Munro, Jr. of Edinburgh, who published it in his inaugural thesis in A. D. 1797. Dr. Physick was entirely ignorant of this fact until he saw it mentioned in Dr. Munro's work on morbid anatomy, which he had but very lately received.

Conceding to Dr. Munro all the honour arising from the discovery of this valuable method of treatment, it must be admitted that Dr. Physick is entitled to the grateful thanks of the community for having introduced it into practice. It is scarcely necessary for me to say that this operation is now one almost daily performed and that by it very many persons have been rescued from an untimely grave.

In the winter of 1813-14, Dr. Physick suffered from a severe attack of typhus fever. On this occasion his illness was so extreme, that his medical friends despaired of his life for some time. He gradually convalesced, but his constitution did not entirely recover from the shock which it then received. From this period he never enjoyed what might be called uninterrupted health. His powers of digestion became exceedingly impaired, whence ensued a train of most unpleasant dyspeptic symptoms. He became subject also to frequent attacks of catarrh, and his susceptibility to this condition increased to such an extent that he was obliged to observe the most rigid precautions in order to guard against it. His method of treatment when labouring under a severe cold, required confinement to a warm room; and in fact he accustomed himself to a degree of heat in his apartments which to many others was almost insupportable. In addition to this he always employed the strictest antiphlogistic treatment, as regarded his diet and remedial agents. I think that he injured himself, and in a measure produced the very enfeebled and prostrated condition of his system which attended him during the latter years of his life, by the excessively reducing system of treatment to which he had recourse.

The small amount of food of which he would sometimes permit himself to partake, is almost inconceivable; and this for many days together. I frequently expressed to him my regrets respecting the meagre diet he was using; and upon one occasion I dissented roundly from the propriety of such a course of dieting. He replied that he regretted it very much himself, and that he wished he could indulge in more generous living, but that

he had accustomed his stomach for so long a time to abstinence from rich food, that it was impossible now to make any change.

About the period to which we are alluding he began to experience certain unpleasant symptoms, indicative of a diseased condition of the heart, and which eventually terminated in organic affection of that organ, and doubtless laid the foundation for the hydropic complaint of which he died.

Among the complicated forms of disease to which he was subjected, must also be enumerated nephritic disorder, with calculous concretions in the kidneys. It is impossible for language to describe the pain and agony which he frequently endured from the passing of the small calculi through the ureters into his bladder. Upon one occasion, about ten years previous to his death, I knew him to be for near two hours without any pulse perceptible at the wrist, in consequence of intense suffering, caused by the lodgment of a small calculus in the ureter. It remained fixed in this situation for some days, and grew to the size of a small pea; it finally passed into the bladder, and was discharged a few minutes subsequently through the urethra.

The practical knowledge and experience which Dr. Physick derived from the careful and minute attention which he bestowed not only upon every department of his profession, but also, I may say, upon each separate and individual case of disease which came under his notice, enabled him to suggest numerous modifications and improvements which have exerted the happiest influence in elevating the condition of our science. It would be impossible, in a communication of this nature, which has already exceeded the limits originally proposed, to give even a brief outline of the many valuable inventions for which we are indebted to him. In order to do this, it appears to me, that it would be necessary to review almost every professional act of his life; because there was no form of disease of which he undertook the management, in which he did not exercise a tact and method of treatment peculiarly his own. I do not mean to say that in every case he prescribed a new remedy, and one original with himself.—My meaning is that he invariably modified either the dose, or the preparation, or the time of its administration, or the method of its application, according to his own proper and peculiar views.

It may not be deemed uninteresting to mention the particulars of a case in which he was instrumental in preserving the life of a valuable and distinguished lady, by the following simple treatment. This lady was brought on to Philadelphia labouring under an attack of dyspepsia of the most aggravated character. The irritability of her stomach was so great, that it had rejected every variety and form of nourishment which could be thought of, and her system consequently was so much weakened and prostrated, that she appeared to be absolutely dying of inanition. When Dr. Physick saw her, after proposing a variety of articles, he asked her whether she had ever, since her attack, tried to take milk. She replied that she had often taken it, but her stomach very soon rejected it. He then asked her whether she did not think that her stomach would retain the half of one tumblerful of milk. She said, no. He repeated his questions. Would it retain one wineglassful? No! Would it retain a tablespoonful? No! He then told her that he was under the impression that she could retain in her stomach one teaspoonful of milk; and accordingly he prescribed the article for her, to be taken in that quantity, at repeated intervals. The lady attended to his prescription, and was ultimately restored to perfect health.

Among other improvements suggested by Dr. Physick, I should mention, that in the *Eclectic Repertory*, vol. vi, for the year 1816, he published an account of a method which he had proposed for forming ligatures out of animal fibre. He had repeatedly noticed, that after the performance of operations, the wound was prevented from healing, and the patient was subjected to the greatest inconvenience and distress, in consequence of the ordinary ligatures, formed out of silk or flax, remaining fixed in the wound sometimes for many weeks or even months. Dr. Physick considered it an object of extreme importance to obviate these inconveniences; and accordingly he proposed the use of animal ligatures, by means of which an artery could be secured for a sufficient length of time to cause the obliteration of the vessel, and the ligature, being decomposed and dissolved, would escape in the course of a few days.

His views upon this subject will be fully explained by the following quotation. "Several years ago, recollecting how completely leather straps spread with adhesive plaster, and applied over wounds for the purpose of keeping their sides in contact, were dissolved by the fluids discharged from the wound, it appeared to me that ligatures might be made of leather, or of some other animal substance, with which the sides of a bloodvessel could be compressed for a sufficient time to prevent hemorrhage: that such ligatures would be dissolved after a few days, and would be evacuated with the discharge from the cavity of the wound."

From this period he continued to employ animal ligatures almost exclusively up to the time when he left off operating. I regret that notwithstanding the advantages which these ligatures possess, they are but seldom used by the surgeons of the present day. I can attribute this neglect of them to nothing but the slight trouble attendant upon their preparation.

Some time subsequently to Dr. Physick's publication upon this subject, it was shown that the idea of preparing ligatures from animal fibre had been suggested a long time previously by one of the older surgeons. It is scarcely necessary for me to say, that he was entirely ignorant of this fact, and that at the time he was under the full impression that the suggestion had originated with himself.

Whilst upon this subject, it may not be amiss to give an account of a very ingenious contrivance, which Dr. Physick employed for the purpose of facilitating the discharge of ligatures which remained fixed in the cavity of wounds, either in consequence of being penetrated by new granulations, or from other causes. In such cases he twisted the ligature very firmly, and then secured it to the adjacent skin, by means of a small strip of adhesive plaster. The effect of this twisting is to tighten the noose at the extremity of the ligature, so as to compress completely the parts contained within it; and in addition to this, the natural tendency of the ligature to untwist itself keeps up a constant action and pressure upon the parts, and thereby causes ulceration. We have known several instances in which ligatures which had been retained for a long period in wounds, have been extricated by resorting to this simple process. I may state that Dr. Physick had strong objections to the use of silk ligatures, and in cases where he did not employ animal ones, he invariably preferred those made of flaxen thread or bubbin. He was of the opinion that silk ligatures were more apt to slip.

It is my impression that the period which we are now commemorating may be considered as that at which his professional engagements had ac-

quired their greatest extent. His preeminence, both as a physician and a surgeon, was at that time so generally conceded in this city, as to lead to the greatest demand for his professional services. In addition to this his surpassing fame and reputation were so completely established and so widely disseminated, as to induce strangers from all parts of our country to resort to Philadelphia, in order to be benefited by his skill and experience.

It follows also as a natural consequence of his exalted position, that many persons who could not make it convenient to leave their homes, would apply to him for his advice and opinions in writing; so that in addition to his other labours, much of his time was occupied in keeping up an extensive correspondence.

I have already shown that his health was considerably impaired; and it is probable that about this period he must have been deeply sensible of his increasing infirmities, inasmuch as he thought proper, in 1816, to resign his situation as Surgeon to the Pennsylvania Hospital. He had received his appointment in 1794; consequently he served the institution twenty-two years. Some time previous to this he had resigned his situations in the Philadelphia Dispensary, and in the Alms House Infirmary.

In the year 1819, Dr. Physick resigned his chair of Surgery in the University of Pennsylvania, and was transferred to that of Anatomy, which had become vacant the preceding session by the death of his nephew, Dr. John Syng Dorsey.

The premature death of the lamented Dorsey plunged Dr. Physick into the deepest affliction, and had the effect of creating a melancholy gloom, which overshadowed the remainder of his existence. Dorsey, of all others, was fitted to cheer and solace the declining years of his uncle. He had been regularly educated under the immediate inspection and superintendence of Dr. Physick, had imbibed from him his early lessons of wisdom and knowledge, and at a more matured period of his life, fully adopted the principles and doctrines of his preceptor. Advantages like these, aided by talents of a brilliant and comprehensive order, enabled Dorsey at an unusually early period of his life, to assume the most elevated and distinguished rank in his profession. Relentless death, however, seized upon his prey, whilst in the midst of his honours and his usefulness.

It was always a source of deep regret with Dr. Physick's immediate family and friends, that his comforts in the evening of his days, and whilst labouring under physical infirmities, should be so greatly interrupted by translating him from the chair of Surgery to that of Anatomy. We had positive assurances from himself that the change was contrary to his own wishes and inclination: how far the interests of the institution to which he belonged may have been promoted by it, I do not mean to inquire. My own impression is, however, and I believe I am not singular in the opinion, that if he had continued in the chair of Surgery up to the period when he retired from the University, it would have numbered in its catalogue of students many more than it has ever shown.

In the Philadelphia Journal of the Medical and Physical Sciences, edited by Professor Chapman, vol. i, for the year 1820, Dr. Physick gave an account of the method which he employed for the removal of scirrhus tonsils, and hemorrhoidal tumours. This consisted in strangulating the tumours completely by means of a soft wire ligature passed through a double cannula, and removing the wire at the expiration of twenty-four hours; instead of allowing the instrument to remain applied,

as was formerly the custom, until the parts separated and were thrown off, a process requiring a week or ten days. Experience has shown this to be a valuable improvement on the old method. We can readily imagine that the long-continued irritation kept up by the instrument would be productive of a degree of pain and suffering from which it is desirable to free the patient as soon as possible.

A few years subsequently, Dr. Physick became convinced that the best method of removing scirrhus tonsils was by excision. He contrived a very ingenious instrument for this purpose, and also for excising the uvula; a full description of which, accompanied with a plate, was published by Dr. Hays, in the *American Journal of the Medical Sciences*, vol. i; together with the very interesting case of a young lady, afflicted with a most obstinate cough, occasioned by an elongation of the uvula, who was entirely cured by Dr. Physick, by means of the excision of a portion of that organ. In vol. ii, of the same Journal, Dr. Hays, its editor, published the description and plate of a forceps, invented by Dr. Physick, and employed in certain cases to facilitate the extirpation of the tonsils, by means of his instrument. The forceps is so constructed, that "the tonsil may be seized, and drawn through the aperture to any distance that may be deemed proper; when its extirpation can be immediately effected."

It is proper that I should state, that in cases of hemorrhoidal tumour, where the complaint was of long standing, when the lining membrane of the rectum was much diseased, and where the tumours were seated internally, Dr. Physick employed the ligature for their removal, as long as he continued to operate. Under the circumstances just mentioned, he considered this method of operating far safer than using the knife, and greatly to be preferred.

The following extract, taken from his communication on the use of the double cannula and a wire, conveys a correct idea of his views upon this subject. "I have for many years been in the habit of performing the same kind of operation for the extirpation of hemorrhoidal tumours. The cannula used in this case should not be longer than about two inches. When hemorrhoidal tumours are external and troublesome to the patient; almost all surgeons, I believe, cut them off; but when their attachments are within the anus, and the tumour only protrudes in the act of evacuating the feces, then their excision would be attended with great risk of hemorrhage. This some have denied, but having twice witnessed the fact to a very alarming extent, I wish on all such occasions to guard against it. The extirpation of such tumours can be performed safely by means of a ligature of either vegetable or animal substance; but the most convenient and effectual I have ever tried, is a wire drawn at once tight round its base, by means of the double cannula. This gives momentary pain, but it is not in all cases so severe as might be supposed. I am not able to account for this circumstance; but some patients make no complaint whatever, even though two or three tumours are operated on at the same time, while others exclaim violently from its intensity. At the end of twenty-four hours, and probably sooner, the wire may be removed in the manner above explained. The tumour will be found shrivelled and black, and in a few days will be separated and thrown off, under the application of a soft poultice of bread and milk."

Much has been said respecting the intensity of the pain accompanying

the application of a ligature to hemorrhoidal tumours. I have, however, repeatedly performed this operation, and not unfrequently the patients have expressed surprise at the little suffering which they experienced. Dr. Physick often related to me the case of a gentleman on whom he performed two operations for the removal of hemorrhoidal tumours. In the one he used the knife, and in the other the ligature; and the patient declared that the knife caused him much greater pain than the application of the ligature. It is proper to mention, however, that in order to lessen the amount of pain, Dr. Physick considered it extremely important to include within the ligature nothing but the hemorrhoidal tumour itself.

It is undeniable that, in certain cases, the excision of hemorrhoidal tumours is attended with the risk of fatal hemorrhage; and it is well known that cases have been reported by the highest authority in surgery, in which this operation has been followed by loss of life. I should suppose that Baron Dupuytren's cautions respecting this operation, in conjunction with his directions for the suppression of the hemorrhage attendant upon it, would be quite sufficient to deter a majority of surgeons from excising internal hemorrhoids.

The last paper written by Dr. Physick, which I shall briefly notice, is one which he published in vol. iii, of the Philadelphia Journal of the Medical and Physical Sciences, in which he communicated the particulars of a case of carbuncle, with some remarks on the use of the common caustic vegetable alkali in the treatment of this disease. For the better comprehension of his views respecting the use of the caustic, he divides the progress of carbuncle into three stages. The first or forming stage is that in which the peculiar inflammation exists in the cellular texture under the skin. The second stage is that in which the inflammation has terminated in the mortification of the parts. In the third stage an ulcer remains, attended, however, with no peculiarities.

He says, "In the first stage, all irritating treatment appears to be injurious, by increasing the peculiar inflammation then existing, and thereby extending it."

"In the second stage, the inflammation having ended in the death of the cellular texture in which it was situated, a process begins for making an opening through the skin, to allow the dead parts and acrid fluids to pass out. The commencement of this process is pointed out by the appearance of pimples and small orifices, as above described; and it is at this period that the application of caustic vegetable alkali upon the skin so perforated, and on that covering the middle of the tumour, in quantity sufficient to destroy it completely, proves highly beneficial. In all the cases in which I have used the caustic in this manner, the suffering of the patient ceased, as in Mr. Wharton's case, as soon as the pain from the caustic subsided. It operates by destroying in a few minutes that portion of the skin covering the mortified parts, which, if left to be removed by ulceration, would require several days for its completion, occasioning the chief part of the pain and danger attendant on and consequent to the disease."

In the year 1821, Dr. Physick was appointed Consulting Surgeon to the Institution for the Blind.

In 1822, the Phrenological Society of Philadelphia elected him its President.

In 1824, he was chosen President of the Philadelphia Medical Society. He held this situation until the time of his death.

In 1825, January 6, he was appointed a Member of the Royal Academy of Medicine of France; so far as I know, the first American who ever received that honour.

In 1831, in consequence of his declining health, he felt it incumbent on him to retire from the active duties of the University; and accordingly he resigned his situation as Professor of Anatomy. In acknowledgment of the extraordinary services which he had rendered, in elevating the character of the school, and in promoting the advancement of medical science, the institution, upon accepting his resignation, conferred upon him the highest honour in its power, by electing him unanimously "Emeritus Professor of Surgery and Anatomy."

Not the least among the improvements effected by Dr. Physick in the methods of treating diseases, may be considered his management of affections of the joints; and more especially that condition of the hip joint, known by the name of "morbus coxarius, or hip disease."

I may mention generally, that his practice consisted in the application of a carved splint, to keep the limb strictly at rest, and prevent the least possible motion of the joint; and a course of active and long-continued purging.

In the American Journal of the Medical Sciences, No. xiv, February, 1831, I published a detailed account of Dr. Physick's method of treating morbus coxarius, accompanied with a plate, exhibiting the application of the carved splint. The superiority of this method of treatment is now so completely established in this country as to lead to its adoption by the profession generally.

In October, 1831, Dr. Physick performed the operation of lithotomy on Chief Justice Marshall. This case was attended with singular interest, in consequence of the exalted position of the patient, his advanced age, and the circumstance of there being upward of one thousand calculi taken from his bladder. It is well known that for several years previous to this period, Dr. Physick had declined performing extensive surgical operations. He felt somewhat reluctant to operate upon Chief Justice Marshall, and offered to place the case in my hands. Taking all the circumstances into consideration, and knowing well that this would be the last time that he would ever perform a similar operation, I felt desirous that he should finish with so distinguished an individual; and accordingly urged him to do it himself. Upon the day appointed, the Doctor performed the operation with his usual skill and dexterity. I do not think I ever saw him display greater neatness than on that occasion. The result of the operation was complete success.

It will be readily admitted that, in consequence of Judge Marshall's very advanced age, the hazard attending the operation, however skilfully performed, was considerably increased. I consider it but an act of justice, due to the memory of that great and good man, to state, that in my opinion, his recovery was in a great degree owing to his extraordinary self-possession, and to the calm and philosophical views which he took of his case, and the various circumstances attending it.

It fell to my lot to make the necessary preparations. In the discharge of this duty, I visited him on the morning of the day fixed on for the operation, two hours previously to that at which it was to be performed.

Upon entering his room I found him eating his breakfast. He received me with a pleasant smile upon his countenance, and said, "Well, doctor, you find me taking breakfast, and I assure you I have had a good one. I thought it very probable that this might be my last chance, and therefore I was determined to enjoy it and eat heartily." I expressed the great pleasure which I felt at seeing him so cheerful, and said that I hoped all would soon be happily over. He replied to this, that he did not feel the least anxiety or uneasiness respecting the operation or its result. He said that he had not the slightest desire to live, labouring under the sufferings to which he was then subjected; that he was perfectly ready to take all the chances of an operation, and he knew there were many against him; and that if he could be relieved by it he was willing to live out his appointed time, but if not, would rather die than hold existence accompanied with the pain and misery which he then endured.

After he had finished his breakfast, I administered to him some medicine: he then inquired at what hour the operation would be performed. I mentioned the hour of eleven. He said, "Very well; do you wish me now for any other purpose, or may I lay down and go to sleep?" I was a good deal surprised at this question, but told him that if he could sleep it would be very desirable. He immediately placed himself upon the bed and fell into a profound sleep, and continued so until I was obliged to rouse him for the operation.

He exhibited the same fortitude, scarcely uttering a murmur throughout the whole procedure, which, from the peculiar nature of his complaint, was necessarily tedious.

Chief Justice Marshall survived this operation some years, and finally died of a disease of an entirely different character. Previously to his death he laboured under very unpleasant symptoms, which are frequently met with in advanced life; and in consequence of these, an erroneous rumour was widely disseminated that he had a recurrence of his old complaint, stone in the bladder.*

I should state, that at an early period after Judge Marshall's case, the operation of lithotripsy was introduced into this country. Dr. Physick became convinced of the extraordinary advantages which it possessed over lithotomy, and yielded it the full support of his sanction and approbation.

Among other contributions made by Dr. Physick to the department of surgery, I should mention that we are indebted to him for making us acquainted with the existence of preternatural pouches, or sacs, situated at the lower extremity of the rectum, just above the verge of the anus. This form of disease, which is one of not unfrequent occurrence, is in many instances productive of the most severe and distressing symptoms; so much so, that we have known patients labouring under it declare that their lives were scarcely supportable. The complaint is rendered more perplexing also from the almost uniform absence of all visible or external signs by which it may be designated. It is only by a peculiar mode of examination that its existence can be detected.

Those who wish to acquaint themselves more particularly with this disease, I refer to the "American Cyclopædia of Practical Medicine and Surgery," edited by Dr. Hays; in which is published, under the head of Anus, a most able article, written by my friend Dr. Reynell Coates, giving a mi-

* See the No. for August, 1836, p. 534, for the correction of this rumour.

nute and correct account of the nature and treatment of these preternatural pouches, as collected from Dr. Physick himself.

Before concluding the account of Dr. Physick's labours, I may state, that in a conversation with his relative, Dr. R. R. Dorsey, a short time since, he recalled to my remembrance the case of a gentleman aged 70, in which Dr. Physick had been eminently successful in alleviating, by means of a novel contrivance, the sufferings of a patient labouring under an enlargement of the prostate gland. As Dr. Dorsey attended this patient in conjunction with Dr. Physick, and had a particular knowledge of his method of procedure, I requested him to furnish me with an account of the case. He kindly acceded to my wishes, and sent me the following:

"The end of a small flexible catheter was introduced nearly to the bottom of a very thin sac or pouch, three inches long, and an inch and a half in diameter at the mouth. The edges of the sac, which was prepared from the intestine of a sheep, were secured to the catheter by a fine silk thread, wrapped around it with great care; and the material being as fine as the thinnest blotting paper, adapted itself, when oiled, so closely to the instrument, that the bulk of the whole was less than that of a large sized bougie.

"After its introduction into the bladder, the membrane was injected with tepid water, and the mouth of the catheter being stopped with a peg, it was gently, but with some firmness, retracted. The consequent pressure at the seat of disease, gentle and uniform, and from the nature of the material used, as little irritating as possible, had the happiest effect in repressing the enlarged lobe of the gland; and afforded for many months, great relief by facilitating the discharge of the urine. Although the patient took a severe cold immediately after the operation, he did not suffer more than he had previously; and on recovering from its temporary influence, he experienced a relief long unknown. The introduction of the instrument was again practised after an interval of some months, with great advantage.

"Much nicety is requisite in securing the edges around the catheter, so that there may be no roughness to cause irritation during its retraction. It was also deemed proper to wind the end of the thread loosely round the catheter and secure it to the stopper. The material employed was prepared and may be procured in France."

Dr. Physick informed me that he had been equally successful in relieving another case by means of the same contrivance.

In November, 1836, he was elected an honorary fellow of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society of London. The conferring of this honour was a full acknowledgment of his exalted merits, and justly acquired reputation, and he did not affect to conceal the high gratification which he derived from it.

I have mentioned in the former part of this memoir, that the first case recorded in his private journal is one in which he performed the extraction of the crystalline lens. By a singular coincidence, it happened that the last operation ever performed by Dr. Physick was for cataract, and took place but a few months previously to his death. He, however, never saw his patient after completing the process; the attack which terminated his existence occurring on the afternoon of the same day.

I ought to mention, by way of apology for his engaging in any surgical operation whilst labouring under such feeble health, that the circumstances attending this case were exceedingly peculiar. The applicant was a foreigner, Dr. Physick had operated upon his eye a year previously, and the gentleman had remained in this city during a whole year for the purpose of having it repeated by him. He consequently felt it incumbent upon him

not to disappoint his patient; and he was not the man to shrink from the performance of what he believed to be his duty, notwithstanding, as he informed me, he was well aware that death was impatiently waiting for his victim.

This operation was performed on the 13th of August, 1837. I was present and watched him with the most intense anxiety. He was quite collected and firm, and his hand was steady, though he was labouring under great mental and physical suffering. Whilst witnessing this effort in the cause of afflicted humanity, I felt a melancholy conviction that it would be the final act of his professional life.

From this period his complaint went on increasing in intensity and violence. The symptoms of hydrothorax became developed to a most painful extent, and he suffered extreme agony from oppression at his chest and difficulty of breathing; so much so, that sometimes he became unable to lie down in his bed for whole nights together, but was obliged to stand upon the floor, supported by assistants. In consequence of his increasing illness, his old and well tried friend and associate, Professor Chapman, was requested to visit him in consultation with myself. His malady, however, had become uncontrollable, and it resisted the most strenuous efforts that professional skill and affectionate attention could exert.

Some time previously to his death, anasarca took place; and in consequence of his remaining so much in the erect position, his lower extremities became enormously swollen and distended with serum. The integuments at length gave way, and openings formed, which finally ulcerated and became gangrenous.

The Father of American Surgery expired without a struggle, on the morning of the 15th of December, 1837, at twenty minutes past 8 o'clock.

"He gave his honours to the world again,
His blessed part to heaven, and slept in peace."

To the preceding account of the professional labours of Doctor Physick, I have but little to add respecting his private life and character. It is in fact rendered less necessary for me to dwell upon this point in his history, inasmuch as in the several obituary notices of him which have appeared from different sources, ample justice has been accorded to him both as a man and a citizen. It is with feelings of the most sincere gratification that I proceed to mention the following eulogies which were pronounced subsequently to the demise of Dr. Physick; all of them expressive of the deep sense which was entertained of his profound acquirements and personal qualifications.

"A comprehensive minute, commemorative of Philip Syng Physick, M. D., Emeritus Professor of Anatomy and Surgery in the University of Pennsylvania," was prepared, under the instructions of the Board of Trustees of the University, by William Meredith, Esq. This is replete with sentiments which fully comply with the resolution of the Board, "That a committee be appointed to prepare and present, at the next meeting of this Board, a comprehensive minute; to state the long connection of the deceased with this University, and to express the respect entertained for his able and faithful services as a teacher, for his eminence as a practitioner of medicine, and for the virtues which adorned his private character."

When the intelligence of Dr. Physick's death was received at Louisville,

"resolutions were adopted by the faculty and class of the Louisville Medical Institute, to commemorate, by a discourse prepared for the purpose, the invaluable services and character of the deceased." The duty of preparing this discourse devolved upon Professor Charles Caldwell, one of the early friends and associates of Dr. Physick. He discharged the obligations imposed upon him with his usual skill and ability; and delivered a discourse highly gratifying to the friends and connections of Dr. Physick.

At the request of the American Philosophical Society, a Necrological Notice of Dr. Physick was prepared, and presented at a meeting held in May, 1838, by Professor Wm. E. Horner. From Professor Horner's long association with Dr. Physick in the chair of Anatomy, it will be conceded that he possessed peculiar advantages for the successful accomplishment of his task. It is well known, too, that he entertained an ardent affection for Dr. Physick; and he has accordingly borne ample testimony to his talents and acquirements.

We are also indebted to Professor Granville S. Pattison, of Jefferson Medical College, for a highly laudatory notice of Dr. Physick, contained in an introductory lecture delivered before his class, on the commencement of the session of 1838-9.

It must be admitted that, by the community at large, Dr. Physick's private character was but imperfectly understood. This was owing to the habits of perfect seclusion which he contracted, and to the slight intercourse, other than professional, which he permitted himself to enjoy with his fellow citizens. It must not be supposed, however, that this isolation arose from moroseness of character or want of inclination to mingle with society. A satisfactory explanation may be afforded by the entire self-abandonment with which he devoted himself to his professional engagements. This formed one of the most striking and remarkable points in Dr. Physick's character. History probably cannot show an example of a more pure and absolute devotion to professional pursuits than he exhibited.

For the reasons just mentioned, he was supposed by some to be stern and unfeeling, and wanting in the kinder sympathies of our nature. There could not be a greater misapprehension. His feelings were tender and susceptible in the extreme; and could those persons who entertained an opposite opinion have been admitted to closer and more intimate relations with him, they would have acknowledged the great injustice they had done him in such a surmise. Many instances might be cited, were it expedient to occupy the necessary time, to illustrate Dr. Physick's extreme tenderness of feeling. At an early stage of his professional career, he performed a few experiments upon living animals, with the view of determining some physiological points. This formed a subject of regret to him as long as he lived; and he could not divest his mind of the idea that he had been guilty of a useless as well as wicked act of cruelty.

Previously to his performing important surgical operations, his feelings were so harrowed up, and he experienced so much anxiety, that it was the custom of his family to endeavour to prevail upon him to execute such operations as speedily as possible, in order to relieve his mind.

To those who only saw Dr. Physick as the bold and unflinching operator in surgery, his character might have appeared cold and unfeeling, and they might have thought him,

— "Unlike to other men,
A snow-crown'd peak of science, towering high;"

but to the few who knew him in his private circle the veil was withdrawn. It was in the gentle charities of domestic life, as the tender and affectionate parent, or the sympathising friend, that his true character became revealed, and his heart was felt to be keenly alive to the kindest and softest emotions of which human nature is susceptible. He never appeared so happy as when surrounded by his children and his family; and indeed I feel assured that this formed one of the greatest consolations to him in the midst of his protracted sufferings.

In his intercourse with his professional brethren Dr. Physick's conduct was regulated by the strictest principles of honour and integrity. Whenever he was called in consultation with other physicians, without inquiring how exalted or humble their positions might be, he was scrupulously careful to avoid saying or doing any thing which could wound their feelings, or prejudice them in the least in the estimation of their patients. He invariably stated his own opinions in a frank and manly manner, and was ever willing to pay due deference to the opinions of others. Upon all occasions he was happy and ready to confer upon his fellow practitioners the benefit of his advice and experience, whether the information desired had special relation to themselves, or to those under their charge. He was far removed above the meanness of interfering with the patients of others; and whenever he had it in his power to render a service to a younger member of the profession, by a word of encouragement or commendation, it was cheerfully bestowed.

It was impossible that a man possessed of a mind of so reflective and contemplative a character as his, should not turn with anxious solicitude to the doctrines of religion, and the contemplation of a future state. Religion constituted, in fact, the most engrossing subject of attention during the latter years of his life. How far he derived comfort and consolation from his religious studies, it is not for me to say. I am very certain, however, that a more pure and ardent seeker after divine truth I never knew. As an observer of the principles of strict integrity and morality, I believe it will be conceded that he was exemplary to a remarkable degree. He, however, arrogated nothing to himself from this source. He expressed to me but a short period previous to his death, that he possessed no merits of his own to give him a claim to salvation. His humility and self abasement upon the subject of religion were extreme; and he was always willing and ready to apply to any source, however humble it might be, provided he thought he could be enlightened and instructed by it.

His course of reading upon theology was very extensive; and unfortunately for him he read many works of a conflicting and contradictory nature. The effect of this upon one who had, during all his life, been in search of indisputable evidences, was to create at times gloomy and desponding views. Yet for very many years of his life he was in the uniform habit of perusing, every morning, a portion of the New Testament; and when, in consequence of his illness and increasing infirmities, he was incapable of so doing, his children were constantly employed in reading this and other works of devotion to him. During his last illness he derived great pleasure and satisfaction from the visits of his friend and pastor, Dr. Delaney; whose kind attentions towards him were unremitting. I feel assured that the hopes and promises of the Christian religion were the greatest sources of consolation to him in the closing hours of his life, and smoothed his passage to the tomb.

REVIEWS.

ART. XII. *Lectures on the Morbid Anatomy of the Serous and Mucous Membranes.* In two volumes. Vol. i. By THOMAS HODGKIN, M.D. London, 1836.

THE situation of Dr. Hodgkin as Demonstrator of Morbid Anatomy and Curator of the Museum at Guy's Hospital, has rendered him eminently qualified to lecture or to write upon the subject of Morbid Anatomy.

The inspection of several hundred dead bodies, as he tells us, naturally brought under his notice a great variety of morbid appearances in most of the organs of the body; and in 1827 he began to lecture, commencing with the morbid anatomy of the serous membranes, and in the following year proceeding to parasitical animals; malignant diseases, and the mucous membranes.

Our author bases the arrangement of his course upon general anatomy; as he considers that it is only by collecting into one view the modifications produced by disease in any one tissue, that we can obtain accurate knowledge of the relations of these morbid alterations to each other, and to the healthy state. He begins with the serous and mucous membranes, because they are so generally diffused over the body, and because they are so frequently affected with disease. In discussing the abnormal alterations or conditions of these membranes, he adopts the following classification.

Deviations from the normal state consisting in:

1. Deficiency.
 - a. The result of imperfect development.
 - b. Loss sustained.
2. In excess.
3. In form.
4. In appearances which may be regarded as the result of ordinary inflammation.
5. In appearances which are the result of scrofula.
6. In appearances which are the result of diseases termed malignant or resembling them in structure.
7. In hydatids in the particular organ.
8. In the effect of accidental injury.

Dr. H. proposes to retain the word "inflammation," in preference to "hyperæmia," notwithstanding its rejection by Andral, who remarks that it is like a piece of money that has lost its stamp by wear, and has become unfit for further use. The old coin, Dr. H. remarks, may long continue much more convenient than the new, notwithstanding its indistinctness, especially if the new coin bear a different name and value. The word hyperæmia, though sufficiently expressive of the presence of an undue quantity of blood, is necessarily applicable to many cases distinct

from inflammation, and at the same time is inapplicable to some states that belong to the various stages and modes of inflammation. In this we heartily concur with Dr. H. The abandonment of an old, well known term, and the introduction of a new one, we consider always objectionable and not to be admitted, unless for very strong reasons: for as there is no general and supreme authority to fix such matters, the new term will never come into universal use; and will only create confusion.

Medical literature is in much the same situation with one of our cities or large towns; as long as the old name of a street is preserved, every one knows where he is; but let it once receive a new name, and every resident in it has some good objection to the one adopted, or some preference to another, so that every successive year it receives a new designation.

Dr. H. makes a distinct division for the effects of scrofula, which though closely allied to those of inflammation, have many distinguishing peculiarities. In the sixth section, are included cancer, fungoid disease, and melanosis, which present the remarkable character of depending on an adventitious structure; which derives its growth and nourishment from vascular connection with the parts in which it is situated; and is consequently very different from the mere degeneration of natural structures. With regard to hydatids, he considers them as parasitical animals; as they have no vascular connection with the parts in which they are found, and are rarely if ever found even mechanically attached to them; and they have the wonderful power of reproducing their kind often to a very great extent.

In his second lecture, Dr. Hodgkin proceeds to the general consideration of the morbid anatomy of the serous membranes. These membranes are the earliest developed in the embryo. According to some physiologists, the alimentary canal and the urinary bladder owe their origin to serous membrane. They are also more frequent in their formation, nature seeming to delight in the production of such membranes as the arachnoid, the pleura, the pericardium, the peritoneum, and the tunica vaginalis. The eye, the pulps by which the teeth are formed, and the synovial capsules consist in part of serous membrane slightly modified. The large extent of surface presented by these membranes, afford the best opportunities for observing the varieties in the modes of inflammation.

The ultimate structure of the serous membrane is believed to consist in extremely minute fibrillæ combined so as to form lamellæ. Dr. H. affirms that the idea that these fibrillæ are composed of globules arranged like a string of beads, is founded entirely in an optical deception. He has spent hours in the examination of this subject in company with Mr. Lister, the inventor of a very powerful microscope; and is perfectly convinced of the fallacy of the globular theory. The perfectly formed membranes, he thinks, without exception, consist of fibrillæ of tolerably even size, bearing no resemblance to beads. The imperfectly formed membranes answer the description given by Meckel. These membranes are supplied with blood vessels and absorbents which are extremely minute in the healthy state, but become preternaturally visible and distended when inflammation causes an increased effusion in the former, or when the secretion of the lymphatics is too abundant. The existence of nerves has been denied by some. They become highly sensitive in disease, yet active and fatal inflammation sometimes goes on in them with little or no

accompanying pain. They possess a considerable degree of extensibility and contractility, as is evinced in pregnancy and parturition, and in the daily functions of the bladder and rectum. The microscopic observations of Mr. Lister and our author have convinced them that there is a greater similarity between the fibres of the arterial and serous tissues, than there is between either of them and the muscular.

Dr. H. considers that the serous and mucous membranes are transmutable into each other. The fluid secreted by the arachnoid is the most aqueous of the serous secretions. Next are the waters in the membranes of the ovum. The secretions from the ovum appear to be more charged with animal matter. We find in the cellular membrane of particular parts, close cavities which produce and contain a mucous secretion, and conduct us to the synovial bursæ and capsules, in which mucus obviously exists. Hence the transition is easy to the mucous membranes of the eye, the secretion of which is more allied to serous secretion, than that of most portions of this tissue. In accidental productions of a natural or analogous tissue so frequent in serous membranes, we find in some of the cysts a perfectly clear, limpid, aqueous fluid; in others a straw coloured serum; in others a fluid bearing the closest resemblance to synovia; and in a fourth class, a clear and perfect mucus. The serous membranes, moreover, undergo certain changes, the result of which is to convert them into mucous membrane. We do not find, however, in the physiological conditions of the organs themselves, such clear evidence of the convertibility of the one into the other, as has been offered with regard to the gradations that exist between them. He has repeatedly found the secretions of the pericardium glairy and bloody ropy from the quantity of mucus it contained. He has found the surface of the pleura lubricated with a viscid mucus which made the lungs feel as if smeared with saliva; and in inflammation of the pericardium, this membrane covered with muco-purulent effusion. In ovarian dropsies, which depend upon the development of large adventitious cysts, the first fluid evacuated is frequently thin and serous; that which is next drawn, is thick and loaded with mucus; and a fourth or fifth puncture evacuates puriform matter.

The morbid appearances common to the serous membranes, are in the first place suppression of secretion; the membranes becoming nearly or entirely dry. Gas is sometimes secreted in the cavity of these membranes. This is a rare phenomenon, and not to be confounded with cadaveric formations of gas. It is said to have been found between the layers of the arachnoid, sometimes in the pericardium, and more frequently in the peritoneum. These membranes may, through some alteration in their functions secrete air; but it is more commonly produced by chemical action taking place immediately after death. In this case it is usually attended with a peculiar smell, and may, on examination, be detected in other parts of the body. Excess of secretion, the fluid remaining unaltered, is another morbid condition. This excess constitutes the dropsies of the serous cavities, such as hydrocephalus, hydrothorax, hydropericardii, ascites, hydrocele, hydrarthrus and ganglion. Alterations take place in the quality of the secretions. They sometimes acquire the character of mucus, are sometimes tinged with bile, and occasionally with blood. The admixture with blood is as often cadaveric as morbid. The confinement of this appearance to one cavity, the general state of the body and its freedom from other cadaveric changes, will

generally distinguish the morbid from the cadaveric. In many cases, however, Dr. H. allows it is difficult, if not impossible, to draw the line. Blood has been found in the pericardium where no rupture of the heart or of any vessel was discoverable: not unfrequently in the pleura; often in ascites mixed with the usual fluid; and in hydrocele when it is sometimes pure, forming hæmatocele. Chyle may possibly have been found in the cavity of the peritoneum. That milk should be, is absurd and incredible. A light coloured puriform inflammatory effusion has probably been mistaken for milk.

Deficiency of a whole or a part of the more important serous membranes is rare, except in cases of deficiency of the parts with which they are in contact. Thus in acephalous fœtuses, the arachnoid must of course be wanting. The anterior part of the peritoneum, and the corresponding parietes, have sometimes been wanting, leaving the abdomen open. In these instances, in which the testes have not descended into the scrotum, the reflected portion of the tunica vaginalis is wanting.

Excess is more frequent. It may consist in the prolongation of normal membranes, such as occurs in the arachnoid in congenital protrusions of the brain; in the pleura, in which are sometimes formed appendices, giving a covering to collections of air or fat; in the pericardium and the synovial capsules, where similar appendices are sometimes formed; in the peritoneum, where these prolongations are most frequent and remarkable; in all cases of hernia, congenital excepted; and in the tunica vaginalis. Excess may consist also in the formation of new cavities.

Effects of Inflammation. These are the most common and the most important alterations to which these membranes are subject, and naturally occupy a large part of the attention of our author. The earliest effect of inflammation is the suppression of the secretion, leaving the membrane dry; a state which does not long continue, and can therefore be seldom witnessed on dissection. As the irritation subsides, transpiration returns; but if the inflammation has been violent, the serum exhaled does not possess the usual qualities. It becomes, in most cases, superabundant in quantity, and is mixed with some more solid material, giving rise to various forms of false membrane, and often rendering the fluid more or less turbid and opaque. Villermè considers the false membrane to be always the result of inflammation. He regards them as the matter of suppuration thickened and concreted. Where false membrane is not found after death, in persons supposed to have died of pleurisy, inflammation of the muscles must, in most cases, have been mistaken for it. According to Villermè, an individual may die after exhibiting all the marks of pleuritis, and no trace be found on inspection. Dr. H. has never met with an instance in which some marks of inflammation were not to be found. Where the patient has died upon the second or third day, no false membrane may be formed; but there is generally an effusion of sanguineous or puriform serum. In a few instances, he has found an effusion nearly or quite transparent, which, on removal from the body, possessed, though in a feebler degree, the coagulating power of the blood.

Dr. Hodgkin does not agree with Dupuytren, Villermè, and Sir Everard Home, in regard to the formation of the false membranes. He differs from them with regard to the organisable properties of pus or puriform fluid. This he believes to be always more or less excrementitious; and where an outlet from the body is not afforded, it retards the cure by interfering with

the organisation of other substances formed at the same time, particularly the coagulating effusion noticed above. This, which is the coagulable lymph of John Hunter, is the most eminently plastic effusion, and as coagulation advances, it throws out tender diaphanous films, which are found separated by, and infiltrated with, a limpid and often straw-coloured serum. These false membranes are not opaque and cribriform, but continuous and transparent; a condition which militates against the idea of Villermè, who considers them produced by the aggregation of an infinite number of minute flocculi.

There is another form of effusion which is not plastic. It consists of whitish opaque particles diffused through the serum, which, when combined with the more plastic effusion, either renders it uniformly opaque and of feeble cohesion, or sprinkles it with opaque points, or with puriform or tuberculous matter. It differs principally from the plastic effusion, by its entire or nearly total want of vitality. False membranes possessed of this character are a constant source of irritation. The false membrane may itself become a secreting organ, sometimes yielding a particled puriform fluid, sometimes more plastic lymph, which may assume the most perfect membranous appearance, even when the first formed membrane is loaded with opaque matter. When the latter is more organisable, if it be not too much irritated by the inorganisable matter which it has produced, it eventually takes up as much of it as is capable of absorption, and shuts up the remainder in a cyst such as forms around a bullet or other foreign body; the opaque albuminous part being incapable of absorption.

In regard to the manner in which the false membrane becomes supplied with vessels, Dr. H. justly observes that the idea of a real generation of vessels is so repugnant to all our present notions with regard to the circulation, that it cannot be admitted; although red vessels are first seen in the false membranes, without our being able to trace any connection. The other theory, that these false membranes are the bed into which the exhalent vessels extend themselves, is more probable, and is supported by the fact that injections may be thrown into them from the neighbouring vessels. Dr. H. conceives that, at the inflamed part, the minute blood vessels not merely become distended, but that their delicate parietes, and the structure through which they ramify, become softened, and yielding to the pressure of the blood in the distended vessels, give way in numerous points. The very small quantity of blood thus permitted to escape, is not diffused, but is received into the false membrane, appearing in spots which soon assume a dendritic appearance, and, extending in length, become vessels. They are at first feeble and distended, and therefore larger than those from which they proceed, and hence the redness of newly formed membranes; but they afterwards contract and become nearly or quite invisible. The uniformity of size, and the straight and parallel course of the vessels in newly formed false membranes, give them the appearance of muscular fibres.

Where the effused material is most abundant, organisation is most difficult. The surface of the effusion first becomes consolidated, and thus shuts out the internal part from the rest of the cavity; and this, if its organisation does not proceed, becomes converted into pus, and may be gradually absorbed.

When the adhesions produced by the matter effused are not universal, and the motion between the serous surfaces is considerable, lengthened bridles are sometimes formed. Sometimes a delicate false membrane, the product of a highly plastic inflammation, is raised by the serum between it

and the original serous membrane, so as to produce bladders or cysts of various sizes and shapes, sometimes resembling clusters of grapes, in which state they have been mistaken for hydatids. Sometimes they become cylindrical, and form a *cul de sac*. The production of false membrane in the form of cyst, occurs most frequently in the peritoneum. Detached bodies are sometimes found in the cavity of a serous membrane, formed, as Dr. H. supposes, from an isolated clot of coagulable lymph, which, in process of time, acquires a firm and membranous surface. In the soft and recent state, these are of the size and figure of an egg plum, but in the firm and advanced stage, not larger than a pea or a marble.

There is another form of false membrane, which is from the first more adherent to the serous surface than either the very recent membranous films, or the opaque inorganisable flocculi. It has a firm and dense structure, does not become even visibly vascular, and presents an uneven, unattached, sometimes scabrous surface, towards the interior of the cavity. Inflammation, it is probable, may be set up at successive periods, in different parts of the same serous membrane.

When inflammation has attacked any of these tissues, it has a strong tendency to spread. This is most conspicuous where the inflammation is idiopathic; but in cases of injury, the inflammation is more frequently limited to the neighbourhood of the lesion, particularly if both surfaces of the membrane are injured. If a patient have recovered from a wound in the thorax, by which both pleura costalis and pleura pulmonalis have been injured, the pleuritic effusion will probably be found confined to the immediate vicinity of the wound. Wounds of the dura mater, which open into the cavity of the arachnoid, are attended with very great danger, being liable to produce inflammation of that membrane to a very great extent. Yet, when the injury has been greater, extending through the membrane into the brain, and even producing a loss of substance in this organ, the symptoms are comparatively slight. Hence the late Henry Cline, Jr. suggested the propriety of designedly lacerating the arachnoid and pia mater, in cases where the dura mater had alone been wounded.

The false membranes have a tendency after a time to become hardened and contracted, and lose their vascularity. They become narrower, forming bridles, which in time may be separated by a natural process. To this contraction of the false membranes, Dr. H. attributes the remarkable retrocession of the chest in a patient who recovers from empyema. In persons affected with jaundice, these membranes are tinged with yellow.

When the effusion has been small in quantity, much diffused, and of the most plastic quality, it ultimately becomes a loose cellular web. When the quantity has been greater, and the inflammation protracted and chronic, very probably from the admixture of opaque particles, the form ultimately assumed is dense and semicartilaginous.

Pressure diminishes the amount of the fluid secreted. Thus when the lung is inflamed at the same time with the pleura, the lung does not become collapsed, as after cases of simple pleurisy; and we find the solid product of inflammation abundant, while the serum seems to be nearly or entirely absent.

Serous infiltration of the cellular tissue is very common, and is more frequent and remarkable where the membranes are thin, hence the best examples of it are seen in the arachnoid and in the tunica vaginalis. The

swelling of the scrotum from infiltration of the cellular membrane is a well known consequence of the injection for the radical cure of hydrocele.

The formation of bony plates beneath the serous membranes is a frequent occurrence, as the material there effused has a tendency to become dense and hardened, the covering afforded by the membrane favouring the deposition of bony matter. The opposite state, in which the effusion is more or less puriform and widely diffused, and the cellular structure very lacerable, is found in conjunction with the turbid and puriform effusion into the cavity of the serous membrane.

The subserous cellular membrane is sometimes itself primitively affected. It affords the bed in which commence those adventitious deposits described as steatoma, cancer, tubercles, hydatids, and scrofulous, fungoid, and melanoid tumours.

Gangrene is extremely rare, especially in idiopathic inflammation.

The effects of scrofula are not confined to the production of distinct collections of a scrofulous deposit in the cellular membrane, or the attached surface of the serous. Collections of tuberculous or scrofulous matter are sometimes found on the smooth unattached surface. The varieties of malignant disease are almost exclusively confined to the subserous cellular membrane; yet we may occasionally find minute bodies having the character of scirrhus, in the substance of serous membranes, in individuals known to be the subjects of malignant disease. The presence of hydatids in the serous cavities must be looked upon as wholly accidental, the consequence of their escape from the seat of their formation.

Wounds penetrating these cavities are apt to develop a form of inflammation which is characterised by the want of plasticity of its effusion.

It is rare for one serous membrane to communicate its inflammation to another in its immediate neighbourhood. Traces of inflammation, however, are often found concurrently at the base of the right lung and on the convex surface of the liver. The same thing is observable, though less frequently, with respect to the left pleura and the peritoneum in the neighbourhood of the spleen. The serous membranes are united by an inexplicable but indubitable sympathy. Thus in rheumatism, the inflammation of the synovial membranes is often followed by pericarditis. At other times it is the pleura that is thus affected. Dr. Foville has seen articular rheumatism subside upon the sudden production of hydrocele, and again, a return of the rheumatism upon the cure of the tumour. That species of inflammation of the kidney which has been described by Dr. Bright is accompanied by a general tendency to disease of the serous membranes. A proof of the morbid sympathy existing between the serous membranes may also be seen when they are affected with cancerous or fungoid tubercles. When growths of this kind have been formed about the peritoneum, there is not unfrequently found a sprinkling of the same kind about the pleura; and sometimes, though more rarely, about the pericardium.

We have thus given a pretty full abstract of our author's second lecture, which may be considered as a summary of the contents of the volume, particularly so far as relates to normal serous membranes. He next proceeds to the consideration of each membrane and the alterations produced by disease, treating of these alterations according to the arrangement given in the table. The third lecture is occupied with the Arachnoid.

Dr. H. divides this membrane into four portions, the alterations of each of which he discusses separately. The first portion is that which is ex-

ternal to the brain. The second, that which lines the ventricles. The third is the portion which belongs to the plexus choroides. The fourth is that of the spinal choroid.

First portion.—The product of inflammation here, is more frequently purely serous than elsewhere. Dr. H. has seen only one instance of puriform secretion or false membrane between the polished surfaces of the arachnoid, and in this case the inflammation appeared to depend upon a local cause; the irritation excited by a lumbar abscess which communicated with the spinal chord. Dr. H. thinks such effusion may take place without external cause. As a consequence of injury, it is not uncommon.—Adhesions between the two surfaces are very rare; but sometimes met with, particularly after some cause of local irritation, such as tumours or injuries of the head.

The results of inflammation on the attached surface, especially that in contact with the pia mater, are as frequent as they are rare on the polished surface. "It is in this situation we are accustomed to look for and find, pathological appearances, in those cases of acute disease which are marked by a high degree of fever, by pain of head, delirium, convulsions, and often ultimately by coma; symptoms, which in children are recognised as indicative of acute hydrocephalus; and in adults, of brain fever, phrenitis or rather meningitis, if the practitioner be acquainted with modern pathology.

After the most active symptoms of arachnitis we often find nothing but serum infiltrated behind the arachnoid; but we sometimes meet with a coagulable and more frequently a puriform effusion. In almost every case of arachnitis the membrane becomes thickened. A large quantity of serum is sometimes found beneath the arachnoid covering the brain, in cases where the inflammation, if any, must have been of a very chronic character. Ossific deposits are rarely found beneath the arachnoid investing the brain, but they are often found between this membrane and the dura mater lining the cranium. Fungoid tumours are sometimes formed in the pia mater, of the size of a cob-nut, producing a corresponding depression upon the surface of the brain, which does not appear otherwise affected. In other cases, the brain has participated in the disease.

Second division.—Arachnoid lining the ventricles. "This membrane may be the seat of either acute or chronic inflammation. In both of these states, there is often a copious effusion of a purely serous character, constituting either acute or chronic hydrocephalus internus, in the same manner that the serous effusion under the arachnoid covering the convolutions constitutes hydrocephalus externus. This is the most frequent effect of arachnitis affecting that part which lines the ventricles; and in conjunction with this effusion, the membrane becomes thickened, semitransparent, pulpy, and sometimes sprinkled with minute spots of blood."

It is rare to find flakes of recent coagulating lymph in this situation, but we sometimes meet with old adhesions. The inflammatory effusion is sometimes of a non-plastic character assuming the appearance of a thin sero-purulent fluid. The surface of the membrane is occasionally sprinkled with very minute and tolerably firm elevations, resembling finely powdered glass.

Third position.—Arachnoid of the Plexus Choroides. When serous effusion takes place here, it is generally collected into small cysts, which give to the plexus an appearance like that of a bunch of currants. They vary in size from that of a millet seed to the diameter of a third of an inch.

The plexus occasionally exhibits numerous opaque whitish spots diffused through its whole length. It is, however, more common to find the effused matter collected at a particular spot, which is generally near the commencement of the descending cornu. This has sometimes occurred on both sides, forming a well defined tumour as large as a barberry-berry, or even a horse bean. These bodies are sometimes soft, but they are liable to become loaded with earthy matter, giving them the character of petrifications. The plexus is sometimes found extremely exsanguineous and pale, even when there has been much cerebral excitement.

The cerebral arachnoid is liable to effusions of blood either spontaneous or from violence. The possibility of these effusions, Dr. H. considers a sufficient answer to those who doubt the existence of a lining membrane to the dura mater. He gives a case in which it occurred at Guy's Hospital. The production of scrofulous tubercles, and the development of fungoid tumours, he considers additional proofs, if any were wanting. Fungoid tumours formed on the attached surface, not merely raise the membrane and demonstrate its existence, they sometimes occasion the absorption of the dura mater, and ultimately the cranium, so as to protrude externally.

Fourth division.—A. of the Spinal chord. This Dr. H. tells us has been found by Dr. Sharpey, to consist of four layers; one being the duramatal sheath; one investing the chord itself; and two layers within these, so closely applied, and in general so thin and diaphanous, as to appear but a single membrane. The cellular membrane of the arachnoid which forms the pia-matral covering of the medulla, is less vascular and less loose and abundant, than that of the brain, but closely resembles that covering the pons varolii and medulla oblongata, with which it is continuous. Congenital deficiency of this membrane seldom or never occurs. An example of its excess is found in spina bifida.

Inflammation of the spinal arachnoid is not rare, but the patient seldom dies at a period sufficiently early, to allow of the inspection of recent alterations. The fluid effused, even when the result of inflammation, is more frequently serous than puriform. A small quantity of lymph may sometimes accompany it, as is proved by the old adhesions not unfrequently met with.

The thickening and contraction of the spinal arachnoid, Dr. H. considers as an occasional cause of paraplegia, which will be more or less complete, according to the amount of compression exercised on the spinal chord. When the case is not an extreme one, progressive improvement may take place, both by the chord becoming accustomed to the pressure, and by the slow and partial absorption of the adventitious deposit within the membrane. To this cause, he attributes the gradual improvement sometimes witnessed in paraplegia; and adds a caution against the perseverance in very active measures of treatment, such as copious local depletion, deep and extensive issues, &c.; which may increase the dangerous sloughing of parts exposed to pressure, while deprived of their ordinary degree of innervation.

When the membrane has been injured by violence or excessive cold, the spinal chord itself is sometimes softened, or its cineritious substance is unusually injected, sometimes it presents a vermiform or annulated appearance, which may be attributed either to the compression of the contracted arachnoid, to the turgescence of the affected part of the chord, or to both causes combined.

Small patches of bony or cartilaginous matter are sometimes found about the chord, from the size of a pin's head to that of the finger nail or more, and varying in thickness from that of a peppercorn to a melon seed. These spots are frequently met with in tetanus, fatal chorea, and other diseases in which the spine has been supposed affected, and they have been considered a cause. They are however not always found in such cases; and they have been found in subjects, where these symptoms were wanting. Dr. H. regards them, however, as undoubtedly morbid secretions, and as indications of such a want of integrity in the chord as may predispose to tetanus, chorea and the like affections.

The pericardium forms the subject of the fourth lecture. This Dr. H. remarks, forms one of the best examples of a serous membrane. It is rarely deficient, most cases of its supposed absence being probably merely cases of pericarditis terminating in its close and universal adhesion, but two undoubted instances are recorded, one by Dr. Baillie, and the other by Breschet. He knows of no example of congenital redundancy, unless the bridles and membranous bands which unite its two surfaces are congenital; an opinion held by Tioch and others, but to which our author does not incline. It is preternaturally increased in size, in hypertrophy of the heart, in cases of inflammatory or hydropic effusion, and from the development of tumours. The effects of inflammation are such as belong to the serous membranes generally. Its secretion is often preternaturally increased, forming hydrops pericardii, which may, in general, be distinguished from pericarditis, by the presence, in the latter, of a few films of false membrane. These two diseases have a tendency to pass into each other. Dr. H. thinks that pericarditis is much more common and much less dangerous than has hitherto been supposed. When the quality as well as the quantity of the fluid effused is altered, we have either coagulable lymph or an effusion of a more puriform character. The former leads to the formation of the most perfect cellular adhesions. The surfaces of the close and reflected portions, sometimes become so intimately united as to give rise to the opinion above alluded to of the absence of the pericardium. In other cases, the adhesion is looser. In a third variety, it is formed of a multitude of filaments. In a fourth, by broad and membranous layers. Bridles of adhesion connecting the opposed surfaces are common. Our author thinks that adhesions are correctly considered as always the result of inflammation. When there is much non-plastic matter effused, their production is prevented; in which case the surface of the heart is not unfrequently covered with long shaggy, soft, and very feebly organized villi. It is this appearance that has given rise to the improbable stories of the heart being found covered with hair. In other cases, in which adhesion is prevented, the surface of the false membrane presents a reticulated appearance which has been compared to the *bow-net* or second stomach of a calf. When the matter is of the most inorganizable kind, it has a puriform appearance.

The pericardium is apparently more prone than any other serous membrane to assume the scabrous appearance, spoken of above. Plates of bony matter are apt to form upon the attached surface, and when extensive, it has been erroneously described as ossification of the heart. The opaque white patches which are often found upon the surface of the heart, our author considers as the result of pressure; that of an uneven and remarkably indurated liver, for example; or a bony deposit beneath

the reflected pericardium. The motions of the heart aid the effects of pressure in producing these appearances. Traumatic pericarditis is of course very rare. Dr. H. refers to one case, mentioned by Dr. Ferrus. Gangrene is extremely rare. Bloody spots are sometimes found, and are the effect of purpura rather than inflammation. Scrofulous tubercles are very uncommon. Tumours are, perhaps, sometimes, though not often met with. Acephalocyst hydatids have been found between the close pericardium and the substance of the heart. In one specimen, presented to Guy's Museum, there were acephalocysts of various sizes, sufficient to fill a quart measure. The sac containing them was situated in part, beneath the close pericardium, and in part beneath the pleura pulmonalis of the right side.

Lecture fifth embraces the morbid conditions of the pleura. The inflammatory effusion here often assumes a semi-cartilaginous appearance, especially when the inflammation is chronic, which it is liable to become when the fluid part of the effusion is not absorbed, or when organization is retarded by the presence of non-plastic matter. When this matter is very abundant and diffused through the fluid, in the form of minute particles, it constitutes empyema—a term now generally restricted to the collection of a puriform fluid in the cavity of one of the pleurae.

Our author proceeds to a full and interesting discussion of the subject of empyema. He observes that the most favourable termination of chronic pleuritis consists in the contraction of the chest; which often takes place notwithstanding the presence of a considerable quantity of inorganizable matter, which remains after the serum is absorbed or removed. This matter is shut up in a cyst or envelope, and sometimes acquires a bony structure. It is the contraction of this new membrane, rather than the absorption of fluid, which causes the contraction of the chest that ensues to a remarkable degree, while it had hitherto been preternaturally distended. The fluid of empyema is sometimes evacuated by a process called empyema of necessity, in which a spontaneous opening is formed. Dr. H. thinks that this process is conducted in a manner more common in the peritoneum. When a considerable quantity of inorganizable matter has collected, ulceration takes place in that part of the serous membrane, with which it is in contact; and by a continuation of the same process, the external opening is effected. This supposition of our author is the more probable, because this process resembles that generally employed to remove a foreign substance from the body; and it is in this light, that the inorganizable matter must be considered.

His remarks upon the method of making the opening for the escape of the fluid of empyema, are worthy of attention. Where the operation is not urgent, he prefers the use of caustic to that of the knife or trocar; because, in the first place, this method resembles the process of nature above described; and, secondly, because strong external irritation is one of the most powerful means of promoting absorption. Whilst we are preparing for the escape of the effusion, we are giving nature the best chance of removing it herself, and we perhaps may find that before an opening is effected, the plan may be changed, and the cure completed by one or more additional cauteries. The use of the trocar may be resorted to subsequently, if it should be necessary, and with greater probability of a favourable result; since the cavity is found in some degree prepared for the opening, whereas it is taken by surprise, when the trocar is first

used. Dr. H. mentions an instrument, contrived by Dr. T. Davies, for making an experimental opening of the chest. It consists in a needle-pointed stilet, which gradually increasing in size, becomes, at its thickest part, of the size of a crow-quill.

The fluid of empyema sometimes finds an exit, by a communication between the cavity in which it is seated, and the bronchial tubes. This produces one of the most frequent forms of pneumo-thorax, and it is, in these cases, that the stethoscopic sound called "metallic tinkling" occurs. For the production of this symptom, there should be not only a large cavity containing both air and a liquid, but likewise, a communication between this cavity and the air tubes. It takes place also in those cases of phthisis, where a large portion of the lung is excavated.

Dr. H. describes a particular appearance of the pleura which occurs when the matter deposited by chronic inflammation has assumed a close, compact, and almost semi-cartilaginous character. It is produced, as he supposes, by the presence of a soft, yet concrete and inorganizable material, which interferes with the organization of the false membrane, and hence produces depressions in it, giving it a worm-eaten appearance, resembling the effect of ulceration. This material is easily removable, leaving a clean and well defined margin and surface to the depression which it has occupied.

In the sixth lecture the peritoneum, tunica vaginalis, and bursæ are considered. Dr. Hodgkin discusses, as in the other membranes, the degree of proneness of this to deficiency or excess; the alterations of its secretions and the effects of inflammation. He describes a circumstance not particularly noticed by other authors, the formation of false parietes from excess of plastic matter. This false membrane is firmly united to the intestines, dipping down between their evolutions; presenting an even surface to the parietes, and remaining unattached to them, except at the margin of the layer formed by the adventitious deposit. He relates a case in which this formation occurred.

A peculiar result of inflammation is met with occasionally, which is confined to the surfaces of the liver and spleen. It consists in a very remarkable semicartilaginous thickening, interrupted by spots of a circular figure and small size, at which the thickening is either very inconsiderable or is wholly wanting; they may be either distinct or confluent. The surface so affected has a honey-comb or worm-eaten appearance, like that noticed in the pleura. Dr. H. has seen two cases in which the free surface of the peritoneum appeared to be deranged by malignant disease. Detached secretions of a rounded figure and semicartilaginous or bony form are met with occasionally.

Within the synovial capsules loose bodies are sometimes found which Dupuytren supposed to be hydatids. Our author believes them to owe their origin and form to the obstacles which even the most plastic inflammation must find to the production of adhesions. The most violent constitutional irritation has followed a puncture for the removal of these bodies.

The dropsy of the serous cavities would seem from the observations of our author to be more frequently the result of inflammation of these membranes than other recent writers suppose. Disease of the heart or lungs, disease of the liver with obstruction, Bright's disease of the kidneys, may be occasionally causes of ascites, but one of the most common causes, he says, is exposure to cold. Although the effusion may have commenced

independently of inflammation, the effused fluid is very likely to set it up in a chronic form.

The seventh lecture is occupied with a digression upon the subject of parasitical animals. This might seem rather out of place in connection with the serous membranes, particularly as it includes those which infest the intestines. Our author, however, conceives this to be necessary before proceeding to the abnormal serous membranes, which come next in order, because the adventitious serous cysts have so generally been confounded with hydatids. Dr. Hodgkin considers hydatids as parasitic animals, because they are found living distinct and unsupported by any connection with the organs in which they are met with. They also have the peculiarity of producing each other. The natural cure of hydatids is effected by the formation of a communication between the cyst containing the hydatids and either the surface of the body, the intestinal canal, the bladder, or some other cavity that has an external outlet. In other cases the animal dies, its fluid is absorbed, and its membrane is folded and shut up as an inert body within the outer cyst, which contracts upon it. Their death is occasionally followed by an abscess. Dr. H. thinks that cures might undoubtedly be effected by art. Some remarkable cases appear to have been treated with success by Dr. Recamier. He suggests the trial of acupuncture or electropuncture. From the effect of turpentine and of Deppel's oil as anthelmintics he thinks them worthy of trial internally and externally. Saline purgatives have sometimes caused their evacuation. When they are abundant in different parts of the body, their death is not desirable, as the irritation produced by the presence of so many inert bodies, must be attended with serious consequences. Our author notices the *trichina spiralis*, a little worm affecting the muscles of voluntary motion, which has been recently discovered. Richard Owen, by whom it was first observed, considered it allied to the eels found in paste and vinegar. Dr. H. adopts the theory of the existence of seminal animalcules, which has been disputed, and admits the possibility of spontaneous generation. In these two points we cannot agree with him. The latter seems to be somewhat involved in the former, and in the separate existence of hydatids. It is easy to conceive that the eggs of those animals that are found in the intestines are introduced into the system in various ways, but the hydatids, if animals, seem to be viviparous, not oviparous; and at any rate, they are found in parts of the body to which there is no external inlet or avenue. The same is the case with the semen. Although, therefore, the doctrine of the separate existence of hydatids seems to be pretty generally adopted, we confess it is one to which we cannot reconcile ourselves. We have not room, however, to discuss this subject at present.

In the next chapter, we come to the adventitious serous cysts. Our author remarks that whatever may be the nature of hydatids, he thinks he has given sufficient reason for their distinction from these cysts; the former being found loose and unsupported, and the latter closely attached and nourished by vessels proceeding from the part in which they are contained.

These cysts are divided into two classes, those that form around an external body, and those that produce their own contents. The second class form the subject of present consideration. Of these he wishes to distinguish and set aside, four species that have been classed with them as pre-

ducing their own contents. 1. Hydatids; 2. subligamentary encysted tumours; 3. cysts formed by the parietes of an obstructed canal; 4. cysts formed by the distention of natural cells; such as the enlarged vesicles of De Graaf; 5. cysts formed in the thyroid gland, such as constitute bronchocele.

Having set off these, he divides the remainder into two classes, simple and compound. The first are found solitary, or if associated with one or more similar to themselves, the connection is merely accidental. The other class possess the remarkable property of giving rise to growths, having the same character with themselves.

Serous cysts of the simple class are found in the plexus choroides, in the eyelids, in the lungs, in the mamma, and in the neighbourhood of the uterus.

Of the compound cysts, the largest and most interesting are those which are found in the neighbourhood of the uterus, in or near the ovaries, and in the folds of the broad ligament. The parietes of these cysts are found studded with elevations or tumours, which, upon examination, are perceived to contain within them other tumours of a similar kind, the membrane or cyst of which covers the outer tumour, being reflected so as to form the cyst of the one within it. Besides the contained cyst, there is found also a quantity of serum or mucus in each sac. Cysts of the secondary order, Dr. H. observes, not unfrequently afford as complete a specimen of reflected serous membrane, as the pericardium or tunica vaginalis. These tumours are distinguished from hydatids, because the secondary cysts are attached to and continuous with, the internal surface of those in which they are contained; and because delicate vessels are seen ramifying from the one to the other. The superior cysts sometimes become distended and ruptured by the formation and growth of an inferior order of cysts, or by the accumulation of fluid, and discharge their contents into the containing cyst; and thus allow of the unrepressed growth of those which they contain. The cysts thus opened, bear a considerable resemblance to mucous follicles, and appear to be the principal source of the copious and rapidly formed mucous secretion, characteristic in many cases of ovarian dropsy. The effusion of plastic matter, when the membranes of these cysts become inflamed, produces adhesions which render it difficult to demonstrate their structure. There are two varieties, which differ from those above described, the first consisting in the attachment of the contained clusters by slender peduncles, and the second, by broad and flat connections. The three forms may however exist in one cyst, though there is generally a preponderance of one or the other.

A possible cause of these tumours, Dr. H. thinks, may arise from the lesion attending the escape of vesicles, which may occur in virgins as well as others. This growth is more rapid, because the parts in which they arise are accustomed to obey a stimulus to an increased supply of nourishment: because these parts are abundantly supplied with blood; and because the situation exempts them from all pressure or restraint. Dr. H. thinks that the only effectual cure is by their extirpation, to which he thinks there can be no absolute objection, if done sufficiently early.

The same form of tumours occurs in what has been called hydatid testicle, and hydatid breast. Sometimes it occurs in the eye. One of the forms of staphyloma, which is not malignant, appears to be of this nature.

In the ninth lecture, we have the consideration of the results of malignant disease. Here we have: first, adventitious cysts accompanied with a constitutional taint. Second, scirrhus. Third, fungoid disease. Fourth, melanosis. Our author thinks that all these have general points of resemblance. He believes that the common method of examining such tumours by making sections through their substance, especially after they have been immersed in alcohol, is deceptive, and that the best preparations do not supply the place of recent specimens.

By a carefully conducted dissection, we shall, according to him, arrive at appearances similar to those described in the last chapter. He describes the formation of these heterologue tumours as analogous to that of the ovarian cysts. In short, if we conceive of the various forms of cyst which may be composed with a reflected membrane, such as the tunica vaginalis, we have the composition of these tumours. Within the larger cysts are secondary cysts, in the same manner as in those before described. Pressure, impeded nutrition, and deaths are occasioned in these as in the ovarian tumours, by strangulation from the growth of the secondary cysts. The effect, however, is different. The dead cyst, having become a foreign body, excites inflammation in the parts with which it is in contact. The result of this, is the formation of a cavity filled with broken down and softened matter, intermediate between suppuration and gangrene. This often takes place before the tumour shows any external symptom of irritation or inflammation, but it requires that the supply of nutriment should be pretty promptly cut off by the natural ligature.

These tumours produce by their irritation a thickening of the surrounding cellular membrane to a less or greater degree, and dilate the integuments so as to become visible externally. The points most distended inflame, and the inflammation proceeds to ulceration. The tumour either sprouts vigorously in consequence of the removal of pressure, or what is more frequent, participates in the ulceration. The ulcer formed has been considered characteristic of malignant disease. It has elevated and everted edges with a ragged and depressed central portion which is bathed by an unhealthy secretion.

Its growth is most luxuriant at its circumference, both on account of the want of pressure, and from the increased supply of nourishment. The central parts have to encounter the pressure of the surrounding parts of the tumour; and at the same time, all supply of nourishment from the natural structures, is cut off by the ulceration of the integuments. The depth and irregularity of the ulcer is increased by a communication which is formed with the cavity in the interior of the tumour. By making a section through the diameter of the ulcer in a recent specimen, proof will almost always be found, that the elevated margin is composed of radiating pedunculated bodies; whilst in the centre, this disposition is less distinct; the structure is more condensed and there is little if any trace of organization.

With regard to the manner of distinguishing malignant tumours our author concludes a discussion upon this subject as follows: "For my own part, I should, in examining a tumour in the living subject, be in general disposed to suspect what has been called malignity, whenever I could detect indications of the structure which I have described, accompanied with alterations of the surrounding structures, referrible in their origin to some external violence, or to a pre-existing indolent tumour. These suspicions would be proportionally stronger, if the tumour in question occurred in a

part known to be rarely if ever affected with that new malignant and well defined form of tumour commonly termed 'hydatid,' which in common with those of a malignant character, distinctly possesses the structure alluded to. My suspicions would be converted into absolute certainty, in proportion as the other symptoms previously detailed were united to those which I have assumed, as presenting themselves in the suspected tumour."

Dr. H. remarks that the structures of the body possessed of the best vitality, such as *nævi materni*, the thymus gland, the suprarenal capsules, the *mammæ* are, most frequently, the seats of malignant disease. This liability he considers to depend rather upon innervation than upon vascularity.

The distinctions between scirrhus and fungoid tumours, form the subject of the next lecture. True scirrhus tumours sometimes appear to depend upon a single primary tumour; at other times, several can be distinctly traced. The part of the tumour which appears to have been the common origin of the primary cysts, where there are more than one, or from which the contained pedunculated bodies radiate, when there is only a single primary tumour, is, in general, the most indurated portion, and at the same time, the most indistinct in its structure. When examined after the surrounding structures have been carefully dissected off, this part is found irregular and corrugated, suggesting the idea of its having formed a sort of root to the adventitious structures. True scirrhus may remain indolent for a length of time. Before ulceration takes place, the tumour becomes adherent to the skin, and a small spot becomes of a bright or cherry red, or a livid purple colour, before the skin is broken.

Dr. H. is of opinion that scirrhus never degenerates into fungus, although they frequently exist in different parts of the body of the same person. True scirrhus, he thinks, has sometimes been cured spontaneously, the tumours becoming detached by the sloughing of the surrounding tissue, and thus completely thrown off from the system. The occasionally successful practice of empirics, whose principal agent appears to be arsenic, consists, he thinks, in the attempt to induce this process artificially. He mentions a lady afflicted with cancer of the breast, who placed herself under the care of a female quack; and by the use of secret means, the tumour was detached entire. The wound was closed, leaving a very trifling cicatrix, and the lady has had no return of the affection. Dr. Viale at Rome, informed him that he had long been in the habit of adopting a similar plan, in malignant and other tumours, with very considerable success.

Fungoid disease may, in general, be distinguished from scirrhus by its more rapid progress, the prodigious size to which the tumours sometimes arrive, and by its superior vascularity. Its greatest ravages occur in the young; while true scirrhus is almost exclusively the disease of advanced life. The fluid matter is very abundant in the former structure, while in scirrhus it forms scarcely a notable part. The secondary cysts of fungoid tumours, which are often large, generally become filled with a material at first resembling feebly coagulated fibrine or plastic lymph. New vessels shoot into this substance which loses its vitality, gradually becomes opaque, and resembles the brain of a child.

The cellular structure around scirrhus tumours becomes frequently inflamed by the irritation they produce, and is thereby thickened and indurated. The implication of the nervous fibrillæ in this altered structure,

Dr. H. considers the cause of the peculiar and lancinating pains that attend an access of inflammation to which the affected part is constantly liable.

The eleventh lecture, upon the subject of colours, we must pass over, and proceed to the twelfth, and last of this volume, which is occupied with those malignant tumours that have obtained separate attention in consequence of their colour.

The first of these is cirrhosis, which he considers only a modification of fungoid disease, and hardly requiring separate consideration. The yellow colour is merely an accidental character attached to a particular form of malignant disease, in a particular state of its existence.

Melanosis derives its black colour from a highly venous state of the blood, induced by its prolonged stay in the vessels. It has always an encysted form. When the tumours are situated in loose cellular membrane, they have always a rounded shape; but when subjected to pressure, they are modified by this cause. The two most obvious characteristics of melanosis are the black colour, and the production of a new growth possessed more or less distinctly of the characters of the whole group of adventitious deposits that have been described. Dr. H. describes lastly a species of firm fleshy tumour, distinguished by its peculiar structure, and the obscurity of the encysted character, which nevertheless essentially exists in it. The best specimen he had seen grew from the neighbourhood of the scapula. He regards them as of a fungoid nature. This lecture concludes with a full discussion of the various theories which have prevailed or have been put forth with regard to malignant tumours. The appendix contains many cases in addition to those dispersed throughout the lecture, illustrative of the doctrines and descriptions therein contained.

The whole of the volume is highly interesting, the style of our author is elegant, and his descriptions are clear and lucid, and undoubtedly accurate. Perhaps he may be a little disposed to theorise: an inclination with which the less fault can be found, since his high standing as a morbid anatomist, render even his theories valuable. The diffuseness of the lecture style, while it renders his descriptions, we think, more clear, and certainly more pleasant, is unfavourable for quotations: from which we have therefore been obliged to abstain, except in one or two instances. One recommendation of the work we ought to mention, as it is an important one, in a book intended for general use. The author has purposely abstained from the introduction of plates, in order to render it less expensive; and therefore more accessible than the works of Carswell, Cruveilhier, and others. The second volume has not yet appeared, and we regret to learn that the health of Dr. Hodgkin is such as to afford no present probability of his prosecuting the work.

E. W.

ARTICLE XIII. *First Principles of Medicine*. By ARCHIBALD BILLING, M.D., &c. &c. Third Edition, considerably Enlarged and Improved. 8vo. pp. 282. London: 1838.

DR. BILLING deserves the thanks of the profession for his attempt, in the volume before us, to reduce into a small compass, and at the same time to simplify as much as possible, the principles of general pathology and therapeutics. His doctrines of the nature and treatment of diseases are

professedly the result of an extensive clinical experience, and based upon the well established physiological laws of the animal organism.

However we may be inclined to deny the accuracy of some of the doctor's positions, and the legitimacy of many of his deductions, we cannot but concede to his views, in general, the praise of great ingenuity and plausibility, while, in many respects, we admit, that they present a much more rational explanation of the phenomena of disease and of the curative effects of remedies, than the leading hypotheses of the day.

Although small in size, the work of Dr. Billing contains so large an amount of novel ideas, concisely expressed, though not always very logically arranged—while his physiological, pathological, and therapeutical expositions are so intimately blended, the one constituting the proof or illustration of the other—that it is somewhat difficult to present a satisfactory analysis of its contents.

To understand distinctly the author's views of inflammation, fever, and the neuroses, to which three classes he would appear to refer all the usual groups of morbid phenomena, it will be necessary to premise some few of the leading physiological positions advanced by him.

The nerves, he maintains, are distributed to every part of the frame, however minute, for the purpose of supplying to them nervous influence, which excites action. He supposes the muscles and capillary arteries, though differing in tissue, to have each inherent in their structures, a faculty of contracting (*organic contractility*), which being acted upon by the nervous influence, the result is contraction: the nervous influence being discharged into them from the nerves. This discharge may be produced in a variety of ways: as by the blood in the heart or capillaries, the presence of food in the intestines, or, in the muscles, by the will, whether the operation be direct or by *reflection*, these being known agents of contraction in the animal.

"We have reason to believe that the nervous influence is generated, or secreted, in the cineritious (gray) part of the nervous system, and conducted by the medullary (white) part; the medullary part in the spinal cord and brain being an aggregation of nerves from the frame. And a variety of circumstances lead us to the conclusion, that the nervous influence is analogous to, or depending upon, if not identical with, the electric principle or fluid, whatever that be."

While we may admit the first of these suggestions, the second position, namely, the dependence of the nervous influence upon the electric principle, is disproved by so many facts, that with Müller, we must entirely deny its accuracy.

All organic action the author asserts to be contractions produced by nervous influence. He, therefore, denominates the susceptibility of any tissue to contract, organic contractility; its contraction, organic action—sensibility being considered by him solely a property of the nerves.

The energy of parts depends, according to Dr. B., upon a something that is communicated to them by the nerves in conjunction with the brain and spinal marrow; while they are supplied with this nervous influence they retain their power of action, and no longer. Thus arteries become insusceptible of impressions from external agents when the nervous energies are low; and when the vital powers are sunk the capillaries cease to secrete. Nervous influence is elicited in producing *nervous actions*, such as perceptions or thought; *organic actions*, such as of the capillaries,

heart, or intestines; and the *combination of nervous and organic actions*—voluntary motion.

“If this expenditure exceed the supply, or secretion, by the cineritious part of the nervous system, exhaustion is evinced in various ways: in health by sleep; in disease by delirium, stupor, or death.”

“Sleep is a *cessation* of that expenditure of nervous influence which takes place in nervous action; such as volition, and other functions of the sensorium, organic action continuing. The expenditure of nervous influence going on under ordinary circumstances, quicker than the generation of it, a periodical return of sleep is induced.”

Animal heat is, agreeably to the views of our author, extricated, all over the frame, in the capillaries, by the action of the nerves during the change of the blood from scarlet, arterial, to purple, venous; and also whilst it is changing in the lungs from purple to scarlet.

“There is,” he remarks, “a perpetual deposition, by the capillary system, of new matter, and decomposition of the old, all over the frame, influenced by the nerves; in other words, the galvanic influence of the nerves, which occasions these depositions and decompositions, keeps up a slow combustion. In this decomposition there is a continual disengagement of carbon, which mixes with the blood returning to the heart at the time it changes from scarlet to purple; this decomposition being effected by the electric agency of the nerves, produces constant extrication of caloric; again in the lungs, that carbon is thrown off and united with oxygen, during which caloric is again set free; so that we have in the lungs a *charcoal fire* constantly burning, and in the other parts a *wood fire*, the one producing *carbonic acid gas*, the other carbon—the food supplying, through the circulation, the vegetable or animal fuel from which the charcoal is prepared that is burned in the lungs.

“It is thus that the animal heat is kept up. On the other hand, the evaporation of perspiration keeps the surface cool; but in inflammatory fevers, where this is deficient, the body gets too hot; and in low fevers, where the nervous influence is not sufficient to keep up the full fire, the surface gets cooler than the natural standard.”

With this brief notice of some of the leading physiological views advanced by our author, we shall be prepared to understand his pathology of inflammation and fever.

He very properly remarks that every disease is some alteration of those actions, which, when perfect, constitute the welfare of the animal. In inflammation, the first action of the morbid cause is upon the nerves appropriated to the capillaries, diminishing their energy, and consequently the contraction or organic action of the latter; in consequence of which the capillaries dilate, and receive a larger amount of blood than in their healthy state, which is also transmitted more slowly to the returning vessels or veins. The action of the capillary arteries in an inflamed part is hence weaker than in parts of similar texture unaffected with inflammation—which is proved by the redness and swelling of the inflamed part. The enlargement of the vessels observed in a tissue labouring under inflammation, and the consequent increased redness and intumescence of the tissue being the result of diminished contraction, or action, of the vessels, allowing them to give way and become dilated by the injective force of the heart.

The difference between congestion and inflammation is, according to Dr. B., that in the former there is simple distension of vessels; in inflam-

mation there is more or less alteration of tissue, connected generally with deposition in some way of coagulable lymph.

"The moment congestion is relieved, the parts are in their natural state; but even after inflamed vessels are unloaded, time is required for recovering their natural state. A good example is the congestion of the lungs in fever, which often leaves no symptom when the fever is relieved; but after inflammation of the lungs has been stopped, the injured vessels require time for restoration."

This exposition of the author appears to us to be sufficient to show that, contrary to his opinion, inflammation consists in something more than over distension of the capillaries of a part consequent upon their enfeebled action.

"The progress of inflammation shows the dependence," remarks Dr. B. "of the capillaries on the nerves. A part may, in certain cases, be observed to become tender before it is red; for it may be seen by experiment that the pleura or peritoneum of an animal is not tender immediately on exposure; it first becomes tender and then red. In inflammation of the conjunctiva of the eye, it becomes painful, feeling as if there were sand under the lid, some time before becoming red. The action of cantharides in producing inflammation is another proof that inflammation begins in the nerve: for cantharides have no effect on the tissue of the capillaries, do not corrode or act in any way on their substance after death, when the nerves have no influence; whereas any really corrosive agent would act even more on the dead than on the living capillaries. Without, therefore, at present seeking for further proofs, I deduce from blushing, and from the effects of electricity, fire and cantharides, that the capillaries depend upon the nervous system for that tone or energy which preserves them from over-distension. The brain, spinal cord, and nerves, again depend upon the due nutrition by the arteries supplying them with scarlet blood."

Dr. B. very properly objects to the terms in common use, of blood being *detained* in a part by local irritation; the blood being merely delayed in the inflamed tissue in consequence of the increased capacity of the vessel causing a slower current there; and of the *determination* of the blood to a particular part—the heart, he remarks, has no power to direct any blood to one part more than another, but, if in any part there be an unusual relaxation of the vessels, they will receive more than ordinary.

"As long as the capillaries are supplied with nervous influence, as long as they possess perfect organic action, they preserve a due size; when they lose it, either from the influence not being supplied from the nervous system, or are robbed of it by heat, electricity, cantharides, or other cause, they give way, and admit more blood than before. Taking this view of the proximate cause of the enlargement of the capillaries, we can account for all the varieties of congestion, from a single transient blush to the stage with which inflammation commences; and it must be impossible to draw a line between congestion and inflammation, one passing into the other by insensible shades. Hence the numerous terms used by authors to express the gradations of distended capillaries; congestion, active and passive, engorgement, hyperæmia, erythema passing to erysipelas, &c."

According to Dr. B. the effect of inflammation, as is evident from its proximate cause, (relaxation of capillaries,) is to soften the tissue in which it takes place. An inflamed part may feel hard on account of tension, but when cut into, the inflamed tissue will be found softened.

The diminished secretion consequent upon inflammation, the author explains by the enlarged capillaries allowing a more free passage to the blood

onwards into the veins, than through the pores in the sides of the vessels into the ramifications of the excretory tubes; the capillaries at the same time being unfitted for secretion, in consequence of the morbid alteration of their physical condition, and yet, more particularly, through the alteration of their dynamic (galvanic or electrical) condition, consequent upon the alteration of the supply of nervous energy to the part, the original cause of all disturbance.

"In some cases of disease, when the secretions of the skin and kidneys are deficient, we renew them by bleeding, digitalis, antimony, &c., which lower the force of the pulse, thereby diminishing the distension of the capillaries. On the other hand, in health, stimulants, such as punch, by increasing the nervous energy in the kidneys, &c., and quickening the circulation, at the same time increases secretion—whereas the same stimulus could not increase secretion by quickening the circulation when the capillaries are in a state of debility and morbid congestion—and a still further proof that they are in a state of morbid enlargement, is the effect of cold applied to the loins in such cases, in renewing the secretion, and the effect of cold water, even cool air, in promoting the secretion of insensible perspiration, and thereby softening the skin, in scarlatina. Increased secretion takes place sometimes with a weak pulse. It will be found that this occurs in cases where, although the circulation is weak, the capillaries are not deficient in nervous energy, as in hysteria, in the sweating of hectic, &c."

In the mucous membrane lining the different canals, the effects produced by a minor degree of inflammation is, by the relaxation of the exhalent capillaries, to produce a more rapid extrication of the fluid part of the blood; hence the saline serous fluid poured out in the slighter forms of catarrh or the increased flow of a mucous or serous fluid in diarrhœus. If the inflammation increases, the mucous surfaces become dry from a diminution or suspension of their secretions—but as the inflammation subsides, the vessels recontracting, secrete again a mild scanty mucus.

The proposition, that "inflammation is the means by which local injuries are repaired, and hence may be considered as the restorative principle," Dr. B. denies in toto. He contends that it is invariably a morbid condition—that the term adhesive inflammation is an entire misnomer, inflammation invariably impeding the adhesion of cut surfaces or the granulation and cicatrization of an ulcerated surface.

Morbid sensibility of a part does not, according to the author, occur during the reparatory process. There may, he admits, be a considerable degree of pain in those cases in which the healthy nerves are exposed and injured. But there will be more disturbance and loss of sleep, with perhaps less pain, if, from the nerves themselves becoming inflamed, (he has no other term to express their lesion,) morbid sensibility arises, either locally, or in the nervous centres, in consequence of the lesion of the nerve being communicated to them, whether the lesion be in the sensitive or organic filaments; in the latter case, there can be no evidence of morbid sensibility until the lesion is propagated to the nervous centre.

The term inflammation, Dr. B. restricts exclusively to the phenomena which exist previously to the deposition or effusion of coagulated lymph or the natural process by which the reparation of the injury inflicted on the part by the inflammation is effected.

"I may be asked," the author remarks, "how it happens, if the

throwing out of lymph be not a part of inflammation, that it occurs as one of the phenomena of erysipelas, and also upon inflammation of the cornea or iris, when instead of deserving to be named a part of the reparatory process, it obstructs their functions. In erysipelas sufficiently severe to cause lymph to be effused, the desquamation is evidence of solution of continuity of the capillaries, hence the necessity for the reparatory process, viz. the effusion of lymph. We may fairly deduce, by analogy, that there is likewise solution of continuity of the capillaries in the cellular substance beneath. The moment this solution of continuity of capillaries—the giving way from the degree of inflammation, takes place, lymph is effused, and its use is evident, viz. to reunite the breach as even in cases of reparation of an incised wound. When the cornea is wounded, we see that the effusion takes place, to reunite the capillaries; in like manner, when the capillaries give way from inflammation of its substance, without breach of surface, lymph is effused for the reparation of damage. Had the inflammation been superficial, the giving way of the capillaries would have been evinced by ulceration."

Upon this distinction between the inflammation and reparatory process, Dr. B. explains the important practical precepts; the impropriety, namely, of continuing to bleed and to employ other antiphlogistic remedies after the first has entirely subsided—and the importance to be derived from opiates administered at this stage to subdue the morbid sensibility which often remains after the inflammation, and to support the system during the restorative process under a great injury.

"This use of opium," he remarks, "has been pointed out empirically by the best authorities, as they say, in peritonitis and pleuritis—but it is evident that it is after peritonitis (the inflammation,) or whilst it is subsiding, and during the reparatory process—and on any relapse of the inflammation evinced by the skin becoming hot and dry, the opium must be combined with renewed antiphlogistic remedies. In the cases alluded to, the opium is given immediately after free bleeding; the bleeding checks the inflammation, and the opium removes the morbid sensibility. The case must be closely watched for febrile symptoms, lest the anodyne by allaying pain, deceive the practitioner (of which there is great danger in inexperienced hands), and the inflammation re-light, as it will unless antiphlogistic medicines, such as antimony, digitalis, neutral salts, &c., be administered to keep it in check, in graduated doses, but by no means freely, though that was necessary at first.

"On the other hand, in many protracted cases of disease, when the patient feels scarcely ill enough to apply for medical advice, we find some latent inflammation, requiring active and decided antiphlogistic treatment, which may surprise the patient, but of which he soon feels the benefit."

When the congestion or inflammation existing in a part subsides without solution of continuity, or leaving any trace behind, it is called resolution.

The following extracts will explain the author's views in relation to the formation of ulcers, abscesses, and the phenomena connected with them.

"If by a blow or other injury, as by caustic, or by any inflammation, the *life of a portion be destroyed*, it gradually decomposes, and separates from the living part—sometimes in the form of a discoloured slough, the fluid parts running off when the slough is on the surface. The *separation* is effected by *decomposition*, and not by the absorbents of the living part removing a portion of the dead parts, as has been asserted: the part at the line of separation, of a slough of the skin, for instance, de-

composes most rapidly, from the heat and moisture of the surrounding living part; whereas the centre of the slough often dries up, like a piece of leather. After the separation of a slough on the surface of the body, an open wound is left, which, if the reparatory process go on naturally, will be filled up by granulation."

"*Ulceration* is the death of successive layers or minute portions of an open wound, of whatever dimensions; the solution of continuity having been affected either by spontaneous inflammation and decomposition, or by external injury—and the matter which successively dies in an ulcer is not separated from the living part, nor taken away by the absorbents, as has been generally asserted, but decomposes and runs off. Again, an ulcer is not necessarily in a state of inflammation; for, on the contrary, whilst healing, it is in a state of reparation; and any renewal of inflammation causes enlargement—fresh ulceration."

"When any injury, from a blow or inflammation is sufficient to cause death of a portion deeper seated below the skin, it is possible that the decomposed matter may be carried off by the absorbents, as we see in the case of an ecchymosis of extravasated blood—but in general, the reparatory process causing the secretion of pus, suppuration (an *abscess*), takes place. Here again I must advert to the incorrectness of language ordinarily used: it is said that, when inflammation exists, it is of consequence to prevent suppuration. Now, what is to be prevented is, the death of any portion—if that take place, the suppuration is merely a matter of course, as a part of the reparatory process."

The cavity of the abscess is, Dr. B. remarks, lined with coagulable lymph, analogous to the granulations and false membranes and adhesions, in other cases of inflammation. The *cyst* of the abscess thus lined is merely the cellular tissue of the part stretched upon the contained pus, and does not, according to the author, set bounds to the abscess, but passively depends upon the quantity effused into it. It is the extent of the inflammation which decides the extent of the abscess; and where the inflammation is diffused or ramifies, we have diffused or ramified abscess, as from diffused cellular inflammation.

The foregoing remarks refer chiefly to what is called *acute* inflammation, in which either resolution or destruction of parts takes place. *Chronic* inflammation, according to the pathological views of the author, is that in which the cause of the inflammation remains, producing reiterated lesion, followed by continual efforts of the reparatory process, in depositing coagulated lymph, which—

"Sometimes becomes organized and produces actual hardness, as in strumous and other tumours, syphilitic nodes and warts, chronic hepatitis, &c. Sometimes a persisting open ulcer, as a chancre, in which the reparatory process goes on, and by depositing lymph thickens the edges, whilst the continued inflammation keeps the ulcer open by the successive death of minute portions; or, if it be not strong enough to produce death of portions, so as to keep the part in a state of open ulcer, it still renews enough of inflammation to prevent healing—that is, the organization of the cicatrix, which therefore becomes a scab; sometimes single, constituting a scale, as in the coppery eruption; sometimes in successive layers, as in rupia; sometimes in clusters after pustules, as on the face. It is thus that a morbid poison not only inflicts the injury, but, by adhering in the tissue or constitution, perpetuates it till expelled by some remedy."

Dr. B. very properly remarks, that no essential difference exists between

phlegmonous and erysipelatous inflammation—it being the same inflammation in both cases—the only difference being in degree or situation, and dependent upon the state of the constitution. If there be no death of part, there will be no slough; no necessity for the suppuration; but merely desquamation of cuticle or even resolution. The stages, from a slight erysipelatous blush to the most violent inflammation and sudden mortification, are not differences but degrees—exactly analogous to the action of fire, from a slight scorch to the actual cauterizing which causes the death of the part instantly. The two things which produce the source of the phenomena, are, according to the author, the injury and the constitution—great injury with little debility of constitution inducing the same result as less injury with greater debility.

The remarks of the author on the pathological peculiarities of the infectious, contagious, and what have been termed constitutional diseases, are ingenious, though not altogether original.

Tumours, according to Dr. B., are the result of accidental injuries, as blows, &c., or of disease. In both cases coagulable lymph is effused in the cellular tissue, and by a process analogous to granulation, becoming vascular and organized, cannot be removed by the absorbents, which only take up unorganized or dead matter. Some of these tumours remain unaltered, others by their presence keep up an inflammation, in consequence of which the capillaries go on depositing more and more by necessarily reiterated reparatory effects, and so add to the tumour which is thereby increased in size, until it is removed by remedies or operation or exhausts the animal and destroys life. Tumours sometimes disappear spontaneously, that is, by a cessation of the inflammation which produced them, and their subsequent re-absorption—sometimes they suppurate, forming abscesses; sometimes remain indolent; at others, remain and grow larger, or grow larger and ulcerate at the same time, as in cancerous and other malignant diseases.

“Tumours are modified by the part they occupy and the constitution of the person—if the substance injured be fat, the arteries there being depositors of fat, make a fatty tumour—if it be periosteum, bony—if a highly vascular part, a vascular tumour. The tough bands which traverse fatty and other tumours are made by arteries, which in a healthy state would have to support membranous, cellular, or ligamentous tissues. A tumour of a lymphatic gland, or other part, in that debilitated, relaxed constitution called strumous, or scrofulous, will become so: and in a constitution tainted by cancerous disease, cancerous tumours will form in any and every part, as has been ably demonstrated by Kiernan. The same may be said of tubercular disease, which is totally distinct from common inflammation.

“If the absorbents cannot take up matter which is organized, it may be asked how they get away tumours? The organization of a tumour is but imperfect, and it is a burden on the previously existing arteries, in addition to their originally allotted task: if these arteries have been enlarged in size (for we know arteries can grow larger,) in consequence of the inflammation which gave rise to the tumour, they will go on to support it, but if they have only been dilated, they will, when the inflammation subsides, resume their natural size, and starve the tumour, the constituents of which will, when thus deprived of support, become decomposed, unorganized, and thus amenable to the absorbents: on the other hand, the tumour may have been too well organized to give way, and so continue an indolent life, after all inflammation has subsided, but producing neither

pain nor inconvenience, unless a blow or other cause renew inflammation. Now, if the efforts of nature do not remove the tumour, we have remedial means of diminishing it."

These means consist of such as prevent nourishment from entering its vessels, or diminish the amount of blood in them, or cause them to contract, and which cause the removal of the morbid growth by starving it.

From the foregoing the reader will be enabled to form a tolerably accurate idea of the leading outlines of Dr. B's views in regard to the pathology of inflammation. In strict conformity with those views, he attempts to explain the *modus operandi* of the various remedies which experience has proved to be the most successful for the removal of inflammation.

He maintains that the only way in which inflammation of a part can be diminished, is by increasing the action of the arteries involved in the disease, by cold or astringents, which cause the arteries to contract; that is, increase their action.

"When the eye, or any other part, is injured by heat, or a stream of cold air, a blow, or cantharides plaster applied to the skin, &c., the part becomes redder from the vessels enlarging and admitting a greater proportion of blood than there was before. Now, in this first and simplest instance of inflammation, the heart does not act more strongly than ordinary, not affecting the pulse, so that the capillary arteries evince debility, having given way when there is no more force than they bore before without distension; from this they sometimes recover of themselves, gradually contracting to their natural size; or if not, the simple application of cold, or an astringent lotion, makes them contract, and the redness disappears."

"The more the heart acts the more of course it forces the arteries of the inflamed part; and the pulse, showing the power of action of the heart, is erroneously by some considered as an evidence of arterial action; the throbbing of the carotid arteries for instance. As the heart, therefore, acts against the capillaries, if we cannot cause them to contract strongly enough to resist its force, we are obliged to diminish the force of the circulation, either by taking away blood, which decreases both the quantity of blood sent to the arteries and the action of the heart itself; and in this way we leave less for the arteries of the inflamed part to do; or we can lower the force of the heart by medicines, such as *digitalis*, &c. Here, for illustration, the simplest cases of inflammation have been taken, in which the heart is acting naturally, the inflammation being from injury."

When the minute arteries have suffered so much that they cannot recover of themselves, nor by the aid of mere local application, in addition to the local disease symptoms of constitutional disturbance arise, as restlessness, or a general sense of uneasiness, and increased action of the heart; showing that the nervous system is partaking of the morbid sensibility of the nerves of the inflamed part, and that the heart is becoming more excited by its ordinary stimulus, from its nerves being more susceptible. The increased force in the injecting action of the heart tending to keep up and aggravate the disease, it is necessary to diminish its action, and guard against removal. This may be done by venesection or by leeches; by means of which we lower the pulse at the same time that we relieve local fulness. All those things are now to be avoided that will have a tendency to raise it again, as exercise and generous diet. In addition to low diet and rest, we may assist in lowering the pulse by sedatives and by emetics and purgatives.

A variety of remedies, such as nitrate of silver, tartar emetic, acetate of

lead, corrosive sublimate, &c., and some acrid vegetables, as mezereon, &c., that have been found successful in certain cases of inflammation, either applied externally or administered internally, are, according to Dr. B., to be viewed as astringents in their action upon the capillaries; each of them, nevertheless, when too strong or used in too large doses, produces a contrary effect, viz. inflammation and relaxation. Whether externally applied or taken internally, the foregoing remedies are, it is maintained, absorbed and carried into the circulation, and in this way applied directly to the capillaries of the inflamed parts.

"We know, too," he adds, "they are adapted to different cases. Antimony, which produces sickness and lowers the pulse, besides its local effect on the capillaries, when it reaches them through the circulation, is suited to, and resorted to in, acute diseases, such as inflammatory fevers, whether idiopathic or from injuries. If administered so as not to produce sickness or nausea, or if there is a low state of fever, not requiring reduction of the pulse, the antimony may be given in small repeated doses, so as to circulate to the capillaries, without depressing the system. Mercury, which has not this nauseating property, acts less on the pulse than antimony, but perhaps even more upon the capillaries, when circulated to them; hence it is oftener used in chronic cases, both syphilitic and others, besides being much employed in acute inflammation, pleurisy, peripneumonia, peritonitis, &c."

To the objection, that the inflammation of the gums and fauces, produced by mercury, is a contradiction of the above explanation of its action upon the capillaries, the author very ingeniously replies.—

"Mercury stops inflammation by the same means in one case as it produces it in another—it contracts the capillaries; so that a healthy part is inflamed and even ulcerated by what contracts its nutrient capillaries from a natural state; an unhealthy ulcer is stopped by what contracts its relaxed capillaries to a natural state. Contraction of the vessels, however, does not express the immediate cause of the sponginess of the gums; there is, in fact, inflammation, relaxation, which is the secondary result of the contraction; the excessive contraction occasioning the loss of contractility, that is, over-actions causing, at last, a loss of power: as cold, which at first contracts, will at last destroy the power of the capillaries, so that relaxation, amounting to inflammation (chilblain) takes place. The soreness of the mouth in ptyalism is analogous to chilblain; the cold air, saliva, &c., acting upon a membrane whose vessels are in a state of extra contractility; moderate cold, with extra contractility, producing the effect of intense cold with ordinary contractility. It is thus that we have, in the rationale of medical phenomena, to refer constantly to the variation of the proportions of the components of a sum; i. e. the two things which contribute to a phenomenon. In the foregoing statement, the extra contractility depends upon extra sensibility of the nervous part of the apparatus—the organic sensibility of Bichat—which is diminished, if not lost, when inflammation takes place, and the augmentation of which is a means of remedying inflammation, as a cold lotion may relieve a chilblain, which is inflammation produced by cold, and as cool air relieves ptyalism."

The purgative and emetic remedies so frequently resorted to in the treatment of inflammatory diseases, such as salts, senna, jalap, tartar emetic, calomel, ipecacuanha, &c., are, according to our author, sedative in their operation. As a general sedative remedy, tartar emetic, so far from acting as an emetic, will allay sickness, we are told; for example, inflammation

of the mucous membrane of the intestines is accompanied with nausea and sickness, and inflammation of the lungs produces cough: both these inflammations may be checked, even without bleeding, sometimes by frequently repeated small doses of tartar emetic, which are by some called febrifuge; and thus Dr. B. remarks "tartar emetic stops vomiting or cough."

"Blisters act upon the same principle as heat, electricity, sinapisms, capsicum, croton oil, acupuncture, &c. They all appear to produce an increased influx of nervous influence to the part, whereby the capillaries in the neighbourhood acquire an additional power of contracting, so as to resist inflammation and inflammatory effusion."

To understand the varieties of inflammation, we are to recollect, according to our author, that the heart is acting against the arteries, and that both heart and arteries derive their power from the nerves. Thus, inflammation, with a very weak pulse, the heart acting even more feebly than natural, as we see in broken down constitutions, where the capillaries being even weaker in proportion, give way, and the inflammation is to be cured by stimulants which raise the pulse, but which, at the same time, by improving the appetite and digestion, nourish and increase the energy of the nervous system, so as to enable it to communicate to the capillaries a tone or power to resume their healthy action, more than equivalent to the increased action of the heart.

"In some cases, by good food and *tonics*, such as bark, without stimulants, we communicate an energy to the nervous system, which restores the healthy action of the capillary arteries; and it is the discrimination of cases where stimulants are admissible with tonics, or where tonics should be accompanied by evacuants, that constitutes skill in conducting the constitutional treatment of many diseases. Thus by a reference to the relative state of action of the heart and arteries, bearing in mind their dependence upon the nervous system, we can understand how tonics are useful in many instances, by communicating power to the capillary arteries, through the nerves, where stimulants would be injurious from their increasing the heart's action. Tonics are likewise beneficial in conjunction with abstraction of blood and evacuant remedies, in keeping up the energy of the nervous system, so as to restore the proper action of the capillaries."

It is our object to present to our readers a very general outline merely of the leading pathological and therapeutical views of Dr. B. To enter into details connected with them, or to attempt a critical examination of them, would extend the present article to an unreasonable length. Many of the subjects touched upon in the work before us, which is more replete with important matter than many a volume of more imposing dimensions, we are obliged to pass over without notice; among these are the very ingenious and interesting remarks of the author on that morbid state of the nerves, whether partial or general, to which the term "irritation" has been usually applied, but for which he has adopted the appellation, morbid sensibility; and by which he explains the occurrence of morbid sympathies; as well as his practical observations on the four classes, stimulants, sedatives, narcotics and tonics, into which he has arranged all the ordinary remedial agents. In his remarks on each of these classes of remedies will be found, combined with not a little plausible hypothesis, many useful hints, calculated, we conceive, to lead to a more rational and successful application of them for the removal of the several diseased conditions of the system, than the usually received therapeutical precepts.

We shall proceed now to present a brief sketch of the author's views in regard to that much disputed subject, the pathology of fever.

When a local inflammation, in whatever organ seated, is either too great to yield to the remedies applied, or when it has been neglected, it keeps up and extends the morbid sensibility of the nervous system; so that in addition to the increase of pulse, we have other evidences of disturbance in the functions of the nervous system, such as pains of the head, back, and limbs, with lassitude or sense of debility, shewing that the nerves of sensation and voluntary action are affected; alteration of temper; hurry of thought, not amounting to delirium, but sufficient to indicate disturbance of the functions of the brain; loss of sleep; false perceptions; chilliness; morbidly increased heat of the surface with dryness, shewing want of tone from deficient nervous energy. The digestive system is now also deranged, the sympathetic nerves partaking of the morbid sensibility, as well as the cerebral and spinal nerves, and of course the organs supplied by them; there is loss of appetite, and imperfect secretions in the primæ viæ, causing thirst, frequent nausea, and deranged function of the intestines—constipation or diarrhœa. The kidneys also evince a loss of power; their secretion becomes dark, reddish, and scanty.

The combination of symptoms above enumerated, constitutes what the author terms the *constitutional disturbance*, or *sympathetic fever*, from local inflammation. This symptomatic inflammatory fever might, he conceives, be called *symptomatic synocha*.

"It is the same assemblage of symptoms," he remarks, "which forms Cullen's definition of the *idiopathic disease*, synocha, viz: heat much increased, pulse frequent and hard, urine red, the sensorial functions but little disturbed, and the power of voluntary motion diminished. The idiopathic synocha sets in, in Cullen's words, without primary (or preceding) local disease; that is to say, the symptoms of lesion of the nervous system are not preceded by any hurt, or local inflammation, or pain, external or internal; but the lesion of the nervous system in idiopathic fever is, in fact, the local disease. It is, in my opinion, the nervous system itself, which, being injured, produces synocha, or *idiopathic inflammatory fever*."

The treatment in both the idiopathic and symptomatic synocha is, Dr. B. remarks, the same; bleeding general and local, low diet and rest; attention to the bowels; sedative antimonial, or other emetic or diaphoretic medicines; and the use of local applications, poultices, lotions, fomentation blisters, &c. Even in idiopathic synocha, local applications will be beneficial as cold lotions, with leeches and blisters, &c., to the head, to relieve the inflamed brain or meninges. Sponging the skin with water, either warm or cold, also produces, the author observes, a sedative impression on a large proportion of the nervous system.

The foregoing state of fever having existed for some time, according to Dr. B., the power of the nervous system becomes exhausted by morbid sensibility, want of nutrition, &c.; and the heart, though still under the influence of sympathetic morbid sensibility, deriving less energy from the enfeebled nervous system, and at the same time being less nourished, has less power to contract, and really becomes weaker; and the pulse, though still hard, is rendered weaker also. From the same causes, the brain sometimes from passing into inflammation, or at least congestion, has its functions more impaired, and the thoughts become more confused, until actual stupor, or delirium succeeds, and the pulse, losing its hardness, becomes soft and weak.

"The heart being now unable to empty itself, congestion in the lungs is produced, augmented by their capillaries being also deficient in power; the blood, therefore, not being purified, causes still greater stupor, and the patient is said to be in a state of *typhoid* (stupid) or low fever; instances of which may be seen in local inflammation from disease or injury, as when there is inflammation in the chest or abdomen, or after wounds or operations, where the sympathetic fever becomes typhous (typhoid). But if the brain does not become inflamed or congested, the patient may die from mere exhaustion, with all the senses perfect, as in *hectic* fever. Or we may see a patient with symptomatic fever, typhous (typhoid), without having had any previous strength of pulse, and with a cool skin, as from local injury; when, for instance, with the injury, the nervous system has received a shock, as in the case of a severe accident, or of an operation. Thus, we may trace the progress from smaller injuries, and their consequences to greater: a slight inflammation with morbid sensibility, as a single inflamed hæmorrhoid, produces shivering and heat of the skin, *feverishness*, *pyrexia*; the spreading of this inflammation to a greater portion of the intestine producing symptomatic inflammatory fever; and a still further extension of the mischief, general inflammation of the bowels, will bring on *typhous* fever, with oppression of the sensorium. Now, by a similar series of events, the *synocha*, or *idiopathic* inflammatory fever, may also become typhous, which is Cullen's *synochus*, a fever 'beginning with *synocha*, and ending with *typhus*.' "

Idiopathic typhus without any previous *synocha*, and with the temperature from the beginning, even below the natural standard, occurs, according to our author, when the brain and nervous system are poisoned by contagion, or by concentrated foul human effluvia, as in gaols, transport or slave ships, &c., either with or without predisposing circumstances of over fatigue of body or mind.

Dr. B. proposes the query, whether typhus and typhous fever consists in an inflammation of the substance, and *synocha* of the investing membranes of the nervous system, analogous to the difference between inflammation of the substance and membranes of the lungs, liver, bowels, &c. Inflammation of the substance more completely interrupting the functions of an organ, that of the membranes producing disturbance of action and pain. In typhus, he remarks, we see, the functions of the nervous system, thought, volition, sensation, &c., especially interrupted.

As in the treatment of *synocha*, so in that of typhus fever, attention, we are told, must be paid to the local disease. In *idiopathic typhus*, especially, lotions to the head to constrict and give tone to the vessels of the brain, and leeches to relieve the congestion, are the essential local applications, and the most unequivocal remedies in our power. Besides local applications, due attention must be paid to the alvine and renal secretions; but the most important question is, the author remarks, as to the administration of stimulants, or sedatives and depletives; and it is only by careful observation of actual disease at the bedside that we can arrive at the knowledge necessary to guide us in this respect.

"Experience, says Dr. B., proves that cold to the head, with moderate saline and other sedative medicine, will cure typhus, or prevent the typhous state from occurring in *synocha*; whereas when wine, with or without opiates, is employed, the disease frequently proves fatal."

"We may understand the risk of stimulating a typhous patient by sup-

posing, that when an important organ, such as the lungs or brain, is inflamed, or even congested, the weak pulse of the typhous state of collapse, during peripneumonia or typhus, may be one of the provisions of nature to allow the parts to recover, as they would during the collapse of syncope produced by bleeding; and, of course, when so important an organ as the brain itself is diseased, we should be careful how we set the heart pumping more forcibly than necessary. Let us, however, not go into the opposite extreme, and allow the patient to die for want of a spoonful, or even a bottle, of wine or brandy, (for the quantity must be relative, depending on the effect,) if there be real danger of sinking; and when the rallying point is gained, caution is necessary not to push them too far. There is languor and lassitude in all fevers, but the symptoms of sinking, requiring stimulants, are, fluttering, weak, soft pulse; cold sweat; lying on the back; respiration oppressed; involuntary dejections. Wine, on the other hand, will not agree whilst the pulse is hard or sharp, and the skin decidedly dry, even when there is subsultus tendinum and prostration. Ammonia should be tried before resorting to wine."

The whole of the remarks of our author in reference to the treatment of typhus fever are in the highest degree judicious, and correspond with the results of our own experience; we have room, however, for only the following extract in reference to this subject:—

"The state of low or typhus fever being in reality debility, it is difficult for the beginner to satisfy himself of the necessity, or even the safety, of using depleting sedative remedies: nevertheless, all who have experience (except the Brunonians) allow its expediency, in whatever way they may explain it; and it is necessary to be as well assured as possible on this point. The student can more readily be convinced of the necessity for depletion in a state of complete prostration, produced by inflammation of the lungs, or other organs, because he can understand the cause of that state to be, that the capillaries of the organ are over-loaded, and that by lightening them their power of action may be restored. But the low fever being thought to have no fixed habitation, and being considered as a something pervading the system, the rationale of treatment is found not so evident. Fever pervades the frame, it is true, because the nervous system, which is its seat, pervades it. The phenomena of idiopathic fever, show that the nervous system is first implicated—debilitated by a morbid poison from the first: hence the necessity for unloading the debilitated congested capillaries of the nervous centres by sedative treatment. In addition to this, as post-mortem examinations prove, that there is uniformly some visceral inflammation in typhus, the expediency of an antiphlogistic treatment becomes more obvious."

In relation to the gastro-enteric doctrine of fever, Dr. B. makes the following remarks:—

"The functions of the *primæ viæ* are so uniformly disturbed in fever, whether symptomatic or idiopathic, that it is not surprising that Broussais, an accurate observer, should have fixed upon the mucous membrane of the stomach and bowels, as the seat of the immediate cause of idiopathic fever; but I think I have shown, that fever is lesion of the nervous system—if commencing there, idiopathic; if induced there by inflammation of other organs, symptomatic. Some inflammations of the viscera arise during fever, and are very truly said to be produced by the fever; that is, the organ having been *predisposed*, when it is robbed of its due supply of nervous

energy, by the derangement of the functions of the nervous centres, its vessels fall into the congested or inflammatory state; and when the cerebral symptoms diminish, if not before, it is observed that some organ is affected. This is the case, most frequently, with the mucous membranes of the intestines and lungs in temperate climates, and with the intestines and liver in hot climates; so that it is a doubt with many whether the fever has brought on the hepatitis, or the hepatitis the fever; or whether the inflammation of the mucous membrane, brings on the fever, or the fever the inflammation of the mucous membrane, as in acute dysentery. Sometimes the disease in the first instance is the fever, but even then the brain has been rendered more susceptible of the exciting causes of fever, by the previously debilitated state of the organs—the liver, the bowels, or the brain itself; and the moment the fever begins, the organ has its congested or inflammatory state increased, and so rendered evident, though it was latent previously.”

The congestion of the organs during the febrile state explains, according to the author, the obstinacy of some agues. The cause which prevents the cure of the ague is visceral disease, either existing previous to the ague, or occurring during its continuance. The ague and visceral disease act reciprocally as cause and effect—the first aggravates the latter by causing congestion at each fit, and the visceral disease by keeping up morbid sensibility during the intermissions, preventing the nervous system from being cured by bark; but as soon as by bleeding, leeching, mercury, &c., the visceral disease is cured, the bark arrests the ague.

“Considering disease, then, as depending on the conjoint affections of vessels and nerves, and knowing what agents will influence their actions, we may, says Dr. B., in our practice, always have a reason for the application of remedies, and be able to combat such cases as we have not before seen or heard of. Acute diseases are those in which the feverish or other constitutional symptoms are the most urgent, so as to threaten life. Chronic diseases prove fatal only when the gradual alteration of some organ undermines the constitution by interrupting some of the nutrient processes—as in decline, from disease of the mucous membrane of the intestines, or from slow disorganization of the lungs, liver, &c.”

Dr. B. denies that there is any specific typhus fever, but on the contrary maintains that there is but *one* simple fever; and which is exanthematous, petechial—that it is continued, synochous (*synocha*, *συνίχω*), whether with high or low pulse, high or low temperature—and that, when the sensorium is oppressed in addition, it is typhous (*typhus*).

We had intended to present a short analysis of the author's pathology of the remaining class of diseases the neuroses, which according to him consist of derangement of the nervous system, characterized by pain and a tendency to spasmodic, convulsive, involuntary motion. But we find it would be impossible to do this in a satisfactory manner without greatly extending our notice of the work; we shall merely, therefore, offer to our readers the following extract, in which they will find, in the author's own words, a general summary of his pathological views of inflammation, fever, and the nervous affections properly speaking.

“There will have been observed nothing of humoralism in the preceding pages—for though I admit the influence of imperfectly assimilated nourishment, and its consequent deterioration of the blood chemically, producing gravel or scurvy, &c., I ascribe the effects, whether remedial or noxious, of agents, mineral, vegetable, or animal, taken into the circulation, to their producing changes of the solids. *All diseases*, in fact, com-

mence by disturbance of the function of the solid parts of the machine—and first of all, of the nervous system. This is solidism, or neuro-pathology. The nervous system, it is superfluous to repeat, regulates and supplies all with energy. There is no organic sensibility, or organic contractility, independent of the nerves. Every natural impression is received by the nerves; every morbid agent is first felt by, and operates upon the nerves. *Inflammation* of cellular tissue, bone, conjunctiva, &c. through mechanical or other violence, result in consequence of injury to the peripheral nerves and to the capillaries—*fever* from injury to the centres of the nervous system, which arises either from peripheral injury propagated to them, or through lesion by miasma, which, by the route of the circulation, directly poisons them; most probably by chemical combination and alteration—instantaneously lowering their power or energy. I have shown that the immediate effect of the lowering of the power and energy of the nerves, or the nervous system, is inflammation, or congestion of the capillaries, the first degree of inflammation. The diseases of morbid sensibility (*neuroses*) depend also either upon a partial or general derangement of the nervous system—arising, when general, either from the disordered state being propagated to the central organs from a distant region of the body, from a wound, in *traumatic tetanus*—a poison, in *hydrophobia*—from the uterus, in *hysteria*, &c.; or originating there through the gradual operation of a debilitating cause, as *delirium tremens*, *paralysis agitans*, *idiopathic tetanus*, *chorea*, &c.; or when general morbid sensibility is suddenly produced by loss of blood or fright;—so that neuroses, as well as fever, may be produced suddenly or gradually, and like it, may be either idiopathic or symptomatic. Fever essentially depends upon a diminution of the power of the nervous system—the nervous influence whatever that be, is deficient—whereas the diseases of morbid sensibility appear to arise, not from a want of sensitive and motor-nervous energy, but from a derangement of the machinery of the nervous centre. or a disturbance of that connection of the nervous centres with the nerves, which not only induces, but regulates action. Thus, neither in tetanus nor hysteria, is there deficiency of power either in the nerves or muscles—as the morbidly increased sensibility, and the powerful spasms and convulsions show—but a derangement in the direction of it. In fever there is a want of steam, or moving power, to use a mechanical illustration; in the neuroses the machinery is out of order: for instance, when fever is fully established, sensibilities of every kind are blunted, both what are called animal and the organic; and there is debility also of the voluntary and involuntary muscular systems. In the diseases of morbid sensibility, epilepsy, tetanus, neuralgia, hysteria, chorea, hydrophobia, &c., either all the sensibilities, animal and vegetative, are rendered morbidly acute, or the motor energy is distributed to the muscles irregularly—if not too abundantly, as we see in chorea and paralysis agitans, volition would guide the hand to the mouth, but in consequence of the deranged nervous centre, the hand is thrown in other directions in spite of the will, from the antagonist muscles not being under its direction. Or the derangement of the functions of the perceptions and volition, incidence and reflexion, is simultaneous, as in hydrophobia, and some cases of hysteria. In fever there is abundant evidence of lesion of the cineritious tissue, interfering with its function, the generation of nervous energy; in morbid sensibility we have only an evidence of deranged actions in the distribution of it in the medullary white tissue. In morbid sensibility we do not find the faculties of

the sensorium interfered with, unless when, in the advanced stages, a degree of fever coming on, induces the delirium or coma of congestion—or, on the other hand, inanition produces delirium, as in hæmorrhage, delirium tremens," &c.

The remainder of Dr. Billing's treatise is devoted to a very brief consideration of the pathology and treatment of ague, cholera and influenza; erysipelas and rheumatism, phthisis, catarrhs, dropsy, hemorrhages, and chronic cutaneous eruptions. The very concise manner in which each of these affections is treated of, may be inferred from the small space devoted to them—seventy pages, printed in a large type.

Ague, according to the author, is essentially fever; forming, however, a connecting link between fevers and neuroses, as a considerable degree of morbid sensibility exists in it; and being closely allied to Asiatic cholera and influenza, which Dr. B. likewise considers to be essentially febrile diseases.

According to our author, in the first stage of all fevers, the chill is the effect of the debilitating influence exerted on the nervous centres—the mind being at this time clear though languid; the pulse small, the skin cold, and the limbs tremulous or convulsed, from the morbid sensibility of the nervous centres, evinced also by pain in the head and spine. From the weakness of the circulation, all the external capillaries contract, and the blood is consequently congested in the internal parts of the trunk, producing nausea, and other disturbance of the *primæ viæ*, augmented “by the morbid sensibility of the sedatived nervous centres, sometimes causing vomiting and diarrhoea.” This stage of depression may last for minutes, hours, days, or weeks, as evinced in the ephemeral, continued fever, regular agues, and those irregular agues vulgarly called dead ague.

The next stage of fever, the hot, or as Dr. B. prefers calling it, the relaxed, arises from the relaxation of the nervous centres, consequent upon their previous sedation. Upon the extent to which this relaxation occurs, will depend whether the fever will be hot or not; if the relaxation be so great as to suspend the secretion of nervous influence, as in typhus, the circulation and respiration will not have power to produce a full pulse and hot skin; when the degree of relaxation is less, the skin will be hot and flushed, as in continued fever and in ague. But in either case the skin will be reinjected; for even in typhus fever, though the heart be weak, the superficial capillaries, having lost their tone from deficiency of nervous influence, relax, and are refilled, even by the weak heart, with a dusky blood. And a similar state may be seen in some agues where, after the chills, there is a typhous state, and a livid colour of skin, with dreadful languor. Thus, even in ague, remarks Dr. B., the student must not expect to find always the *hot* stage of the nosologists.

These constitute, according to our author, the only two stages of fever and ague. There is no third stage; the sweat which succeeds the hot stage is, he observes, only an indication of renewed secretion by the capillaries, which, after having lost their tone, and been consequently in a relaxed, distended, non-secreting state, renew their secretion on being restored to a normal condition; and of course, as they are returning from a relaxed state, they will pour out fluid sweat at first, until recontracted sufficiently to secrete insensible perspiration only.

Ague, we are told, frequently degenerates into continued fever, which, when of the simple continued kind, synochous, with hot skin, is called a remittent; when of a typhous character, it assumes the form of dumb ague.

Ague constitutes the link, Dr. B. remarks, between fevers and neuroses. In regular ague, constitutional morbid sensibility is prominent. There exists, it is true, a great degree of congestion of the nervous system, as well as of the viscera, during the paroxysm; but rarely, we are told, is real fever produced. There is the pyrexia equivalent to what occurs in hysteria, but seldom actual fever; not that loss of power in the capillaries of the nervous system, which prevents the generation of nervous influence; for in ague, stimulants, unlike the effect they have in ordinary fever, do not produce the coma of plethora—the nervous centres being little injured, though debilitated, are relieved by the stimulant narcotic tincture of opium; and consequently fresh energy is communicated to the capillaries, even in the hot stage, by which they resist the heart's injective force.

Dr. B. holds, that a relaxation of the capillaries is sufficient to explain the production of dropsy, and he denies that it ever arises from a diminished action of the absorbents. Dropsy, he remarks, most generally results from a state of debility of the nervous system, and consequently of the capillaries, induced by disease of some organ, and increased, as in organic discharge of the heart, liver, lungs, &c., by mechanical obstruction of the circulation.

Dropsy, Dr. B. conceives, may be caused by any protracted disease, which, by morbid sensibility or slow fever, robs the secretory organs of their nervous energy, as the kidneys, skin, and intestines, but particularly the kidneys and skin. These ceasing to secrete, the redundant fluid oozes from the capillaries, which are not merely overloaded, but weakened, in consequence of the deteriorated state of the nervous system; and unless, the author remarks, we can restore energy to the nervous system, so as to check exudation, by giving tone to the capillaries, we in vain resort to tapping, or diuretics, or cathartics, such as elaterium, to evacuate the dropsical fluid, as it will speedily reaccumulate. Thus, he adds, dropsy is not to be treated as an isolated or single disease, except where for a time, to prevent a patient from being overwhelmed by the fluid in the cavities, we turn our whole attention to getting rid of it, either by tapping or by inducing profuse serous evacuation from the bowels or from the kidneys.

Dr. B. considers, that hemorrhage from the mucous membranes, as well as purpura and purpura hemorrhagica, takes place under the same circumstances as dropsy; the exhalents from atony, and sometimes from over-repletion, as in epistaxis, allowing blood to exude instead of aqueous fluid. Even the capillary exhalents of the serous membranes sometimes allow blood to escape, which is found mixed with the dropsical lymph upon tapping, or after death.

But we must here stop. We have presented a sufficiently extended notice of Dr. Billing's *Principles of Medicine*, to enable our readers to form a general idea of the pathological and therapeutical views, by which his work is characterised. However much we may be forced to differ from these in many of their most important particulars, we must, nevertheless, as already remarked, concede to them the character of very great ingenuity and plausibility. At the same time, we do not consider the work before us as destitute of a high degree of excellency; much that the author has advanced, as well in regard to the nature and character of morbid phenomena as to the curative action of remedies and plans of treatment, bears in our estimation the seal of truth, and will be found to be borne out by the results of experience. He deals largely, it is true, in mere hypothetical reasoning; he has, nevertheless, combined with this many excellent practical hints, of which the young as well as the more advanced practitioner may make a very profitable use.

D. F. C.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

ART. XIV. *Die künstliche Pupillenbildung in der Sclerotica; Nebst einem anhang über die Verpflanzung der hornhaut, Keratoplastik. Nach eigenen Versuchen.* Von Dr. B. STILLING, Gehülfsarzt am Landkrankenhaus zu Marburg. Marburg, 1833, 8vo. pp. 144.

On the Formation of an Artificial Pupil in the Sclerotica, with an Appendix on the Transplanting of the Cornea. By Dr. B. STILLING, &c.

THE idea of forming an artificial pupil, by removing a portion of the sclerotica and subjacent coats of the eye, and thus allowing an entrance to the rays of light into the interior of the eye, in those cases of blindness in which the cornea and iris are completely disorganized, while the remaining structure of the eye, with the exception in some cases of the lens and its capsule, are unaffected, appears first to have suggested itself to Autenrieth in the year 1814.

In the month of June, of this year, a female nine years old, was admitted into the hospital at Tübingen, who, in early infancy, in consequence of the small-pox, had lost the sight of both her eyes. The pupils were closed; the anterior chambers were obliterated, in consequence of an adhesion of the iris to the posterior surface of the opaque and contracted cornea. On the edge of the cornea in one eye, there remained a small transparent spot, but altogether insufficient to warrant any hope of success from the formation of an artificial pupil by the separation of the edge of the iris from the ciliary body. The eyes of the girl were in other respects uninjured, and when her face was turned to the sun, she was able to distinguish a very slight degree of light.

In contemplating this case, the idea occurred to Autenrieth, that if an artificial pupil could be formed through the sclerotica and choroid coat, sight might be restored to the patient and to all others similarly circumstanced.

Accordingly a series of experiments upon rabbits and other animals were performed; the result of which proved very satisfactorily, that a portion may be cut out of the sclerotica and subjacent coats of the eye with perfect safety; that the vitreous humour slightly projects at the opening, and that the small tumour thus formed becomes covered with a thin semi-transparent membrane, constituting a kind of vicarious cornea, through which the rays of light pass into the interior chambers of the eye, and give rise to a certain extent of vision.

The experiments alluded to show also, however, that in all probability, but a very imperfect degree of vision can be restored by an artificial pupil formed in the sclerotica—that although the covering membrane of this artificial pupil is at first tolerably transparent, there is a danger of its becoming subsequently opaque, and in this manner destroying the benefit of the operation; and finally, that it is not entirely certain that in the human subject the vitreous humour may not escape entirely through the opening formed through the coats of the eye, or a severe inflammation be induced, by which either the whole eye would be destroyed, or at least a thick layer of coagulable lymph effused so as to close up the artificial pupil.

These serious objections to the proposed operation, our author has very ingeniously, but in our opinion, unsuccessfully, attempted to remove. He admits, however, the very imperfect degree of vision obtained by the operation, even when most successful; which we grant would not be a very valid objection to it, in the cases to which it is alone applicable, could we depend upon its very generally succeeding in all other respects.

A variety of additional experiments, with the view of perfecting the opera-

tion, were subsequently made by Autenrieth, Schmid, Gärtner, Weber, Riecke, Moesner, Müller, Ullmann, Ammon, Hüter and the author.

Riecke appears to have been the first who attempted the operation on the human subject, in a sufficient number of cases at least, to test its feasibility and real value—the result of his experience is by no means however very encouraging.

The following is an outline of the cases in which the formation of an artificial pupil in the sclerotica was undertaken by this gentleman, as described in the work before us.

In 1817, the operation was performed on a female twenty years of age, who after an attack of small-pox in her third year, had remained entirely blind, and was at the same time labouring under chlorosis and a high degree of nervous asthenia. On the fourteenth day after the operation, there was discovered at the spot where the sclerotica was perforated, a small transparent tumour containing a projecting portion of the vitreous humour. Through this the patient was able to distinguish the faces of the by-standers, although somewhat distorted from their natural appearance. In the course of four weeks, the covering of the artificial pupil became somewhat obscured; it was not, however, even at a still later period completely opaque, and continued to afford the patient a partial vision.

In 1820, the operation was performed, first, on a robust country girl, who had become blind from small-pox in early youth. On the eighth day subsequently, the opening through the sclerotica was entirely closed, in consequence of the firm adhesion of its edges. Secondly, on an individual thirty years of age, who had been blind from youth, in consequence of small-pox; on the fourteenth day, the conjunctiva of the upper eyelid was found to be united with the portion of the sclerotica at which the operation had been performed. Thirdly, on a boy fifteen years old, who seven years previously had been rendered blind by an attack of scarlet fever; on the fourteenth day, not the least trace of transparency remained in the membrane covering the opening through the sclerotica.

In all the foregoing cases, the conjunctiva was removed, in the formation of the artificial pupil, in common with the sclerotica, the choroid, and retina. In the two following cases, the conjunctiva was separated from the sclerotica at the spot where the operation was performed, previous to the removal of the latter, and subsequently applied over the opening.

In 1822, the operation was performed on a female eighteen years of age, blind from early youth, in consequence of small-pox. An entirely transparent vicarious cornea was formed. Between the tenth and fourteenth days subsequent to the operation, the patient saw very distinctly the outlines of large objects. Three weeks afterwards, however, the muscles of the eye became affected with severe spasms, and the projecting transparent membrane of the artificial pupil was burst; the humours of the eye escaped, and its coats collapsed. At the end of two weeks, the ball of the eye was filled up to its original size, but no trace remained of the artificial pupil.

The same year the operation was also performed on a female thirty years of age, who had been blind from her youth, in consequence of the small-pox. A beautiful round pupil was the result, through which the patient was able to distinguish the outlines of any large object. In the course of three weeks, the covering membrane of this artificial pupil began to lose its transparency. Complete opacity did not however occur; and several months subsequently, the patient was able to distinguish light and darkness to a much greater degree than she had been previous to the operation.

From the results of the foregoing cases, Riecke has drawn the following general deductions.

1. Notwithstanding the preservation of a portion of the conjunctiva, to form a covering to the opening made through the sclerotica and subjacent coats of the eye, is an important improvement in the operation, yet the history of the first four cases, as well as numerous experiments on animals, shows, that the artificial pupil, without the covering of the conjunctiva, often remains for a considerable

table time transparent. Even when an opaque layer of the conjunctiva forms over the opening made in the sclerotica, this may be often removed by a knife or scissors, so as to restore transparency to the artificial pupil. To secure the portion of conjunctiva over the part operated on, it is better, according to Rieche, to attach it by a suture.

2. It is absolutely necessary that the opening through the coats of the eye be perfectly circular and not too small, in order to prevent the junction and consequent adhesion of its edges. To form such an opening, he prefers a double edged curved staphyloma knife.

3. In order that the operation may be successful, in every case, a slight projection of the vitreous humour must be produced. In the lower class of animals, this occurs readily of itself, in consequence of the pressure of the strong muscles of the eye, but in man, pressure on the ball of the eye will be necessary to cause and maintain a sufficient projection of the vitreous body.

4. The formation of what has been termed a *cornea succenturiata* is very much to be doubted. The wound in the sclerotica is not closed by a transparent cicatrix, it being occupied completely by the hyaloid membrane.

5. The transparency of the hyaloid membrane always becomes somewhat diminished, but it never becomes as opaque as the sclerotica. The discovery of the means capable of preventing this loss of transparency, is much to be desired, in order to the perfection of the operation.

6. In reference to this operation, the change which occurs in the conjunctiva subsequent to *ophthalmia scarlatiosa*, as in the fourth case referred to above, demands particular attention; in all the other cases, where blindness was the result of small-pox, the conjunctiva was entirely unchanged from its normal condition.

The operation for the formation of artificial pupil in the sclerotica, was performed subsequently by J. B. Müller, but without any permanent benefit; and in 1827, it was performed by Professor Ullman. The patient, a man thirty-three years old, blind from his sixth year, in consequence of a wound of the right eye, and a subsequent hypopium of the left eye. For a short time subsequent to the operation, the patient enjoyed, to use the words of our author, "as perfect a degree of sight as under the circumstances of the case could be expected;" but finally, the artificial pupil was completely obliterated, and the patient reduced to a state of perfect blindness.

In the two or three instances in which the operation was performed by Professor Ammon, it was attended with scarcely more beneficial results. As deductions from the cases operated on by the latter gentleman, we are presented with the following.

1. That neither the form of the eye nor the sensibility to light which still exists in the diseased eye, suffer any prejudice in consequence of the operation for forming an artificial pupil through the sclerotica; on the contrary, in a few cases, the patients were of opinion, that in the clear light of day or in an artificial light, their power of vision was increased by the operation; this was particularly observed in a case in which the patient in consequence desired that the operation might be performed on both eyes. It is worthy of remark, that the excision of a portion of the sclerotica scarcely ever induces any inflammation of this membrane—in no one of the cases in which the operation was performed by the Professor, was a trace of it observed—and all three of the patients were able to use their eyes on the first, second and third days after the operation.

2. The operation for the formation of an artificial pupil through the sclerotica, does not deserve the oblivion in which it has already fallen. It has been too soon and rashly condemned, before the result of extensive experience as to its worth could be obtained.

After presenting a very full, candid and interesting account of the observations and experience of others in reference to this operation, Dr. Stilling next gives the detail of his own repeated experiments, the general results of which are thus summed up.

1. In the formation of the artificial pupil, it is necessary to remove a portion of the conjunctiva as well as of the sclerotica, chorioidea and retina. By retaining the first, we endanger the transparency of the vicarious cornea.

2. The form of the excised portion of the above coats of the eye should be either square or circular; a triangular opening is apt to close by the adhesion of its edges.

3. The artificial pupil is most appropriately formed partly in the sclerotica and partly in the cornea—a portion of the latter, with the iris and corpus ciliare being removed at the same time with a portion of the remaining coats of the eye.

4. The membrane covering the artificial pupil is not the original conjunctiva, nor is it proper it should be, but is formed by an effusion of coagulable lymph from the wounded edges of the sclerotica.

According to our author, the operation is proper in all cases in which the cornea and iris are become completely disorganized; when the iris is adherent to and inseparable from the cornea, or when the anterior or posterior chambers of the eye or both of them are filled with an opaque exudation which cannot be removed—and when at the same time the remaining structure of the eye, the retina, chorioidea, and sclerotica are unchanged from their normal condition.

The operation is contraindicated in cases of amaurosis, atrophy of the globe of the eye, synchysis, hydrops bulb, varicositas oculi, deep-seated constitutional disease, and all other conditions of the eye, as well as of the entire organism in which the operation for cataract is contraindicated. The operation is likewise contraindicated when one eye only is diseased in the manner above described, provided the other is still unaffected. For even when the operation is the most successful, the disturbance of vision caused by the operation, may affect injuriously the sight of the sound eye—and the consequent deformity can scarcely be relieved by the use of glasses, as Schmid supposes.

The manner of performing the operation preferred by our author, is thus described by him.

The instrument required is one invented by Banger; it consists of three lancet-shaped blades, fastened in the extremity of a square handle, in such a manner as to be perfectly firm, but at the same time readily removed when required. The largest blade is placed horizontally; it is sharp on both of its edges—the two other blades are placed perpendicularly, one on each edge of the horizontal blade; forming with the latter a kind of square trough—their points recede from six to eight lines behind that of the horizontal blade, and are covered by a small projection on the sides of the latter; the cutting edges proceed upwards, and are of an ovoid shape. All the blades gradually increase in breadth from the point towards the handle. The greatest breadth of the horizontal blade, at the spot where the points of the perpendicular blades commence, is from two to two and a half lines; and the greatest height of the perpendicular blades is the same. Besides this instrument, a Daviel's scissors and a forceps will sometimes be required, to remove any shreds of the conjunctiva or chorioidea which may happen to present themselves at the edges of the opening.

The size of the portion to be excised from the coats of the eye should be about two to two and a half lines in diameter, whether square or round. The excision of a larger portion will endanger the prolapsus of the lens, or at least of too great a portion of the vitreous humor, which, if possible, is to be avoided, as the consequent collapse of the eye, by causing the edges of the opening to approach each other and to adhere, will be apt to destroy all the benefit of the operation. If the portion removed, on the other hand, be too small, the field of vision will be too much circumscribed, and even should the opening not be obliterated by adhesion of its edges, the benefit to the patient from the operation will be trifling.

Dr. Stilling prefers the formation of the artificial pupil, partly on the cornea and partly on the sclerotica, on the side corresponding with the outer angle of the eye. The centre of the portion to be excised being marked by the point at

which a line passing through the horizontal diameter of the pupil is crossed by another passing perpendicularly along the inner edge of the cornea.

The patient is to be placed as in the operation for cataract, his upper eyelid being raised by an assistant. The surgeon holding the instrument by the handle between his thumb, index and middle fingers—the thumb being applied on the upper, and the two fingers on the lower side of it—so that the edges of the upright blades are presented upwards, rests his little finger on the patient's cheek-bone, and with the index finger of the free hand, draws down the under eye-lid. The patient being directed to turn his eye towards the inner angle, the point of the horizontal blade of the instrument is to be introduced perpendicularly into the sclerotica, at a proper distance from the cornea, and passed through all the coats of the eye to the vitreous humour; the handle is then to be turned towards the temple, so as to bring the point of the blade beneath the coats of the eye, between which and the vitreous humour, it is to be passed about two and a half lines in the direction of the cornea, when it is to be again passed out through the iris and cornea; which will the more easily be effected if the horizontal blade is slightly curved upwards. The edges of the upright blades are now presented against the upper and lower angles of the external wound, and by pushing forward the instrument, cut out a square portion of all the coats of the eye, between the two incisions made by the horizontal blade. The blood being now gently washed away from the eye, any shreds of the membranes that may remain attached to the edges of the wound are to be seized with a forceps and removed by means of a David's scissors. The patient is to be confined to a darkened chamber, his eye being covered with a light simple dressing. Care is to be taken to prevent the occurrence of inflammation, and if any symptoms of the latter occur, they are to be combatted with the usual remedies.

So far as the mere excision of the coats of the eye is concerned the described operation, when carefully performed, is entirely without danger, or any serious inconvenience. But in reference to its value as a means of restoring a useful degree of vision to the blind in certain cases, there are many circumstances, which, according to the admissions of our author, who is its professed advocate, render this extremely problematical.

When most successful, the transparency of the membrane covering the artificial pupil, is always more or less imperfect, and, consequently, from this circumstance alone, the degree of vision it admits of, is always trifling and obscure. In the most favourable cases, the patient is only able to distinguish between day and night, or the most striking colours, &c., of the largest objects; but more generally, he can distinguish only between light and darkness. The imperfect refraction of the light, from the want of a crystalline lens behind the artificial pupil, by which the patients are rendered myopic, detracts also from the value of the operation, as it is hardly possible to remedy this defect by artificial means.

When after the formation of an artificial pupil through the sclerotica, a tolerable degree of vision has been restored; this has become soon diminished, and finally, entirely destroyed by the more or less gradual destruction of the transparency in the closing membrane of the pupil—and although this may in some cases be obviated by the removal of the opaque membrane, there is still a danger of the one subsequently formed, becoming in its turn likewise opaque.

In one case at least, in which the operation was performed on the eye of a dog, a severe inflammation was induced, followed by suppuration, and finally, bursting of the globe of the eye. Hydrophthalmia was also induced in another instance; while a thickening of the conjunctiva with the development of large vessels, similar to pterygium occurred in two instances. In one instance, an adhesion took place between the conjunctiva palpebræ, and the wound in the sclerotica; and amaurosis was of frequent occurrence after the operation—more especially, however, when in performing it, the eye was dragged forcibly forwards, and otherwise roughly handled.

Whether future and more extensive experience will enable us to improve this operation so as to render it of more advantage in the first instance, and to prevent the occurrence of the unfortunate results above attended to, must, of course, be left for time to determine.

In the Appendix, Dr. Stilling presents a brief account of his experiments on the transplantation of the cornea. He found that if in the eye of a rabbit, an artificial pupil is made through the sclerotica, and immediately a portion of the cornea, cut from the eye of another rabbit, is accurately applied so as to cover the artificial pupil and retained in its place by a delicate suture, it will adhere without losing to any great extent its transparency. In one case, the transplanted cornea remained unchanged for six months. How far the transplanting of the cornea of a brute into the human eye will succeed, and what amount of advantage is to be derived from the operation, the facts detailed by our author are insufficient satisfactorily to prove.

D. F. C.

ART. XV. *Appréciation de la Doctrine Phrénologique ou des localisations des Facultés Intellectuelles et morales, au Moyen de l'Anatomie Comparée.* Par M. JULES LAFARGUE, ancien interne des hôpitaux.

An appreciation of the Phrenological doctrine, or the localisation of the intellectual and moral faculties, by means of comparative anatomy. By M. J. LAFARGUE.

THE article, the title of which is given above, is contained in the *Archives Générales de Médecine* for March, April and June, 1838. It formed originally a part of the memoir addressed by M. Lafargue to the Society of Medicine of Bordeaux, in reply to the prize question proposed by that body—"To determine by argument, by comparative and pathological anatomy, and by physiological experiments, what is positive in regard to the localization of the functions of the Brain?"

The author has attacked the doctrine in all its details. He has attempted to show by an examination of the heads of the various vertebrated animals, and a comparison of their respective forms and dimensions, that the localization of the functions of the brain, or to speak more accurately, the localization of the phrenological organs as taught by the advocates of that doctrine, is altogether untrue. And really, if we are to receive the statements of M. Lafargue as established facts, and admit the validity of his deductions, the article before us can be viewed in no other light than as a complete and satisfactory refutation of the doctrine of phrenology.

The accuracy or inaccuracy of the author's alleged facts, and of his leading inferences, can only be established by a careful examination and comparison of the skulls of the different classes of animals. By cautiously noticing the peculiarity of conformation of the head in the individuals of each class or species, and comparing this with their known habits and disposition, we shall very speedily discover whether the views of M. Lafargue, or the Doctrines of Phrenology have their foundation in nature.

According to M. Lafargue, Phrenology cannot be true, Because—

1st. In certain classes of animals, the pachydermata for example, the form of the brain cannot be determined by that of the external skull.

2dly. In the mammalia, the form of the cranium and of the brain is altogether dependent upon the mechanical organization of the skeleton, especially in reference to the mode of station, progression, and mastication of the animals.

3dly. The development of the occipital crest is in exact proportion with the height of the animal, and the weight of the face—that of the interparietal is in direct proportion to the strength of the jaws, and in inverse proportion to that of the brain.

4thly. Hence, in all the individuals of different groups or species of animals, the conformation of the cranium is the same; thus animals whose habits and dispositions are precisely similar, differ in the conformation of their heads, from the difference in their attitudes and mode of mastication, while those whose habits and dispositions are dissimilar, resemble each other in the form of their skulls and brain, because their attitude and mode of mastication are alike.

5thly. Whenever any one portion of the brain is more or less developed, there

will be found a proportionate greater or less development of every other portion of the organ.

The following extract from that section of M. Lafargue's Memoir which treats "On the Relation between the form of the Cranium and the moral habits," will enable our readers to judge of his manner of treating the subject he has undertaken to investigate—

"The mouse and the rat, having the head broadest posteriorly, should, according to the phrenologists, experience to a greater extent than the other mammalia, friendship and love of habitation. If it is difficult to prove the falsity of this assertion, from our imperfect acquaintance with the disposition of the mouse and rat, yet is it possible to sustain it otherwise than by a hypothesis? But the form of the cranium and of the brain in these animals, is explained by a fact less obscure than their moral habits—namely, by their mode of station which is evident to every eye.

"All the glires or gnawing animals have not, however, a conical head; thus the rabbit and hare have one shorter, and in some degree more globular—it is broader from one temple to the other, and resembles more in every respect that of certain of the carnivora. Hence, those animals ought to exhibit courage and ferocity, while every one knows that they are mild and timid. Who does not know, on the contrary, that certain individuals of the rat-kind, the form of whose craniums indicates the possession of the benevolent affections, devastate the dove-cotes by destroying the young birds? Who is not aware of the ferocity of the field-mouse and hamster? Even distrusting the exaggerated reports of certain German naturalists, we do not hesitate to believe in the warlike and sanguinary disposition of the last-mentioned animal, the temporal region of whose skull is, nevertheless, very much depressed."

"The cranium of the beaver is distinguished by its breadth from one temple to another and its depression in other parts, so that the destructive organs should have in this animal a considerable development, and yet who has ever pretended that the beaver was a sanguinary animal?"

"Buffon does not describe it as a sanguinary animal, but he affirms that it cuts or saws, in some manner, with its incisor teeth, the largest and most resistant branches of trees, which implies a great power of mastication. In the beaver, the inferior jaw being, in fact, as strong and broad at its basis as in carnivorous animals of a similar height, the bitemporal diameter of the cranium should necessarily have the same extent.

"If the cranium of the beaver contradicts the pretended seat of destructiveness, it gives a formal contradiction likewise to the localizers of the faculty of constructiveness, in as much as the depression of the external portion of the frontal bone is in contrast, in this animal, with the projection of the temporal region; and yet, the beaver is distinguished by habits of industry as the carnivora are by their ferocity. As well for the constructive as for the sanguinary habits, there is required a powerful instrument, a broad and strong jaw. Hence to favour the constructive as well as the destructive instinct, the temporal regions enlarge and allow thus for the articulation of the inferior jaw and for the insertion of the temporal muscles."

"In regard to the carnivora, we have already remarked that the cranium of the polecat and weasel is broad behind, and narrow towards the temples; now will any one ever pretend that these animals are very much given to the sentiment of friendship? The domestic ferret never attaches itself to its master, whom it bites whenever it has an opportunity; hence all sportsmen handle it with caution. No one will pretend that the ferret is not sanguinary, and yet the flatness of the temples is in contrast with the breadth of the posterior part of its skull."

"The form of the cranium of the weasel and ferret, so opposed to phrenology, is very readily explained by the mechanism of their bodies, when we consider that these little animals having, as the mouse, short extremities, require to have the skull elongated, broad behind and narrow towards the temples. This explanation is the more firmly established by the fact, that certain of the carnivora

analogous, in many respects, to the weasel and ferret, but having an attitude more elevated, approach, in the shape of the cranium, to the fox and greyhound, as the polecat, the marten, and the otter. In proportion as the animal is elevated from the ground, the head becomes shorter, and swells out in the sus-zygomatic region. The latter is more depressed in the ferret and weasel, than in the rabbit and the beaver; yet the first two, as ferocious as the tiger, destroy beyond their wants; but as they walk with the belly nearly touching the ground, it is requisite that their head should be broad behind, and narrow towards the temples. It is the same with certain of the rat kind of a very ferocious disposition, as the field-mouse and hamster. All these species have a lower jaw, of which the length makes up for its deficiency in breadth; so that notwithstanding its narrowness, in reference to the temples, it can easily articulate itself at the base of each of the zygomatic apophyses."

"In the carnivorous types, the details in regard to the form of the cranium, are explained by the attitude of the body as well as by the strength and breadth of the lower jaw. The lion, the wolf, and the cat are remarkable for the savageness of their disposition, of which the manifestations vary only in degree; but with these variations, let it be remarked, we do not observe a corresponding difference in the prominence of the temples compared with the other parts of the cranium; thus the shock-dog and the hyena have the same development of the organs of murder and of courage."

"In passing to the ruminating animals, we observe a class in which the form of the cranium, although very different from that of the carnivorous, is invariably explicable from the circumstances relative to the mechanism of mastication. The wild or domestic animals of this class are, for the most part, mild, peaceable, and inoffensive; some, however, are more courageous and more ferocious than others, but without any corresponding difference in the form of their brain: as, for instance, the buffalo and bull. I have already said that the cranium of the camel (*camelus bactrianus*) does not resemble that of the other ruminating animals; it is distinguished from them, by the presence of an interparietal crest, and by the length of the bitemporal diameter; according to the doctrine of phrenology, it should, therefore, be more warlike and ferocious than the buffalo—whereas of all the ruminating species, it is the one that was the most easily domesticated, because it is naturally the most mild and docile."

"In the adult of the mammalia, the size of the cerebellum follows always that of the cerebrum, from which it results, that in all of these animals the generative impulse should have the same relative force."

"All birds have a large cerebellum, and the cock is not more favoured in this respect than the others."

"Among fish, in the silurus, which does not copulate more than the others, the cerebellum predominates over the rest of the brain."

We have room only for the general conclusions drawn by the author, from the facts and deductions set forth in the article before us:—

"1. In analogous species of animals, the form of the cranium, indicating the respective developments of the brain and face, measures their moral and intellectual perfection, and consequently their ferocity, which is in inverse proportion to this perfection—this results from a comparison of the tiger and spaniel. But among certain distant species, there are differences in the form of the cranium and brain, although the dispositions are the same, arising simply from a diversity in the mechanical construction of their bodies, either general or local, as may be observed by comparing the wolf and the weasel, the beaver and the cat, from whence it arises that the anatomy of the mammalia is opposed to the localization of the faculties."

"2. The form of the cranium in the different races of men, indicating the respective size of the brain and the face, measures the extent of intelligence as a whole. When two varieties of our species are distinguished, the one by the elevation of the faculties and of the higher sentiments, the other by the preponderance of the grosser propensities, the cranium is found to be uniformly large in the first, and uniformly contracted in the second. But the parietal vault, the

frontal region, and zygomatico-mastoidien regions preserve the same relative proportions in both, from which it results that the anatomy of the human race is opposed to the localization of the faculties.

"3. The major part of the skulls of murderers, thieves, and poisoners, found in the collection of Gall, have not a form different from the medium conformation of the cranium of the white race, as we have demonstrated by an exact measurement. A small number present the form desired by the phrenologists; but as we have observed this form in individuals of the mildest disposition, with a broad face and small brain, we hence conclude that it is not peculiar to thieves, murderers, &c. From which it follows that the comparative cranioscopy of individuals of the same race is opposed to the localization of the faculties.

"It only remains for us to bring together our three means of refutation, in order to appreciate their respective value. Gall and his followers, perceiving how much their system would acquire strength by the sanction of analogy, have not neglected to interpret, in their favour, the form of the head of certain of the mammalia. Thus, when the alleged peculiarities of configuration in the head of a murderer do not produce entire conviction in the mind of a sceptic, they endeavour to attain their end by appealing to comparative anatomy; they insist upon the proportions, so remarkable, of the brain of the carnivora and the herbivora.

"We observe among men of the same race differences of intellect so trifling, that we might almost invariably attribute them to exterior influences, which the phrenologists do the more willingly, as the resemblance of the heads of the same type allow rarely any peculiarity of form explanatory of the peculiar character of the individuals to be seized upon. But, in examining each variety of the human race in general, we find, on the one hand, the native faculties delineated by striking features in the moral habits; on the other hand, a medium conformation of the head characterized as the distinct type; so that if there exist between the races moral and anatomical differences, they will both be equally decided and easy to appreciate; now all these differences do exist, but they do not correspond in such a manner as to justify the localization of the faculties."

We have presented the foregoing notice of the memoir of M. Lafargue, not because we are of opinion the author has succeeded in overthrowing the doctrine of phrenology, or that all the objections to its truth which he has brought forward cannot be readily and very satisfactorily met, but because we conceive that M. Lafargue has indicated the only possible mode in which the truth or falsity of phrenology can be established—the minute study of the conformation of the cranium and brain in all the various species of vertebrated animals, especially of the mammalia, and of the most striking differences observable upon an accurate comparison of them with each other; a cautious observation of the peculiar habits and dispositions by which each species or variety of animals is distinguished, and whether any peculiar conformation of brain is invariably connected with any predominant habit, disposition, or propensity. It is neither by the metaphysical arguments, nor by the misrepresentations or ridicule of the principles and tendency of the principles of phrenology, that have, heretofore, almost invariably been made use of in attacking it, that its overthrow can be accomplished—this can be done only so soon as it shall be proved to be in opposition to the facts based on the true anatomy and physiology of the animal frame.

D. F. C.

ART. XVI. *Die Gefäßdurchschlingung. Eine neue methode, Blutungen aus grösseren Gefässen zu Stillen.* Von Dr. B. STILLING, prakt. arzt zu Cassel. 8vo. pp. 152, Marburg, 1835.

Die natürlichen Prozesse bei der Heilung durchschlungener Blutgefässe mit besonderer Rücksicht auf den Thrombus. Aus einer grossen reihe Von Versuchen an Thieren abgeleitet. Von Dr. B. STILLING. &c. 8vo. pp. 304, Eisenach, 1834.

Geschichte einer amputation des obersehenkels, wobei die durchschlingung der art. fem., art. prof. fem. und der vena fem. in anwendung gezogen wurde. Von Dr. B. STILLING, &c. 8vo. pp. 32, Hanover, 1837.

THE three works, the titles of which are given above, have reference to a new process invented by their author, Dr Stilling of Cassel, for the arresting of hemorrhage from the large vessels, whether arteries or veins, when these have been divided by an accidental wound or in operations, as well as for the obliteration of large blood vessels in cases of aneurism, &c. The process consists in carrying the divided extremity of the vessel upwards and passing it through a loop cut in its side, a short distance above the division.

This operation, when skilfully performed, is described as a perfectly secure means for arresting hemorrhage and as affording a more certain security against secondary hemorrhage than either the ligature or torsion. It is, however, in the language of Professor Hertwig, more difficult of execution, requires a more firm and skilful hand, and greater accuracy of vision than the ligature or torsion, and, also, occupies more time. It is, likewise, liable to have its success impeded or entirely destroyed by a greater number of trifling circumstances than is the case in either of the other methods for arresting hemorrhage;—it requires too for its accomplishment a larger portion of the vessel to be laid bare—it is represented nevertheless as inflicting less injury upon the vessel and less irritation upon the surrounding parts, and consequently as presenting a less impediment to the speedy union of the wound in the soft parts than the ligature or torsion.

It may be readily executed, we are assured, on all blood vessels, which have more than a line in diameter, and it is to be preferred, in injuries of the larger arteries, where an immediate union of the external wound is desirable, as in wounds of the abdomen and of the protruded bowels, in punctured wounds that can be freely enlarged, and in all cases indeed in which the divided vessel lies superficially; it being absolutely necessary in the operation under consideration that the entire end of the wounded vessel be completely within sight. On the other hand, the operation, we are told, cannot well be performed and is not to be recommended, as a general rule, in vessels of a less diameter than one line; in the larger veins; in deep seated vessels; especially when the external wound is small in extent; in such vessels as are liable to retract, when wounded, within bony channels; in vessels the parietes of which are hardened or ossified, and finally, in any case in which the life of the patient will be endangered unless one or more bleeding vessels be promptly secured.

In the first named of the works before us the operation is minutely described—of this description we present the following summary.

The instruments required, where the operation is to be performed on a divided artery, are, a common anatomical forceps, with tolerably broad points, a compression forceps, a spear pointed knife, a small forceps with slender points, slightly curved, and a thin blunt probe.

When the vessel to be operated on is undivided, in addition to the above instruments, and those necessary to lay bare the vessel, there will be also required a second compression forceps, and two ordinary forceps, to hold the deep seated ends of the vessel after its division. The forceps with which the end of the artery is carried through the loop in its side, must correspond with the diameter of the vessel, hence it is necessary that the operator be provided with several of different sizes.

When the vessel has been divided by an external wound &c., the end of it is to be drawn out somewhat as in the application of a ligature, and a compression

forceps applied upon it, at the distance of rather more than twice its diameter, from its open end. If the end of the artery is covered with a considerable amount of thick cellular membrane this is to be separated with a forceps or knife. The operator with a forceps now seizes the vessel transversely near its divided extremity, and renders it flat and tense. He then transfixes the vessel with the spear pointed knife, at about half a line to a line according to the size of the artery, from the edge formed by the flattening of its coats, and in this manner makes an incision through both its sides, in the direction of its long axis, equal in length to the diameter of the vessel and beginning about the same distance above its divided end. Through the loop thus formed in the side of the vessel, the points of a slender forceps are to be introduced from below, and passed out a short distance beyond the loop on the upper surface of the vessel. The second forceps may now be removed and the blunt end of the probe being introduced about one or two lines within the cavity of the vessel at its divided extremity, by its assistance a fold of the latter is to be carried upwards, so as to enable the points of the forceps passing through the loop to seize the greater part of the circumference of the divided extremity, which, by the careful withdrawal of the forceps, is to be carried by them from above downwards entirely through the lateral loop and somewhat stretched so as to place the latter as high up on the inverted end of the vessel as possible. The compression forceps are now to be removed and the vessel allowed to retract while the everted end is to be carried to the bottom of the wound. When the operation is to be performed on an undivided vessel—this is to be laid bare and insulated as for the application of a ligature, to about four times its diameter if a small one, and to about three times if a large one. One of the compression forceps is now to be applied at each end of the insulated portion, which is to be divided in the centre by a sharp knife and both ends of the vessel beginning with that nearest the heart are to be interlooped as in the case of a divided vessel.

The description of the operation, of which the above are the general outlines, is followed by observations on the various circumstances occurring, either during the operation or subsequently, by which it may be impeded, or its beneficial results diminished or destroyed. It is not our intention here, to give an account of them; to those who would desire to make themselves familiar with the operation, a superficial notice of them would be of little or no value, and our limits will not permit us to enter into minute details.

We may remark, however, that among the things to be guarded against in the performance of the operation, the following are described as the most prominent.

Hemorrhage, from the slipping off of the compression forceps from the end of the vessel—this is to be avoided by care on the part of the operator;—when it occurs, the divided end of the vessel must be sought for in the usual manner, and the forceps again applied.

The longitudinal incisions, by which the loop on the side of the artery is formed, may be made too long, or too far from the side of the vessel towards the centre of its upper surface, or they may be made too near to the edge or too short. In the first two cases the operation will be rendered unsuccessful—the blood escaping through the incisions;—in the third case, the loop will be liable to be torn in carrying the end of the vessel through it, or become too much stretched to retain the latter. In the last case, the end of the vessel cannot be carried through the loop without difficulty or injury to the former. Where the incision is too short, the difficulty may be obviated by enlarging it; but in the other cases, the lower end of the vessel must be cut off, and the operation repeated higher up.

The loop may be made too near to the divided extremity of the vessel, so that the end of the artery is allowed to slip out of the loop.—The incision in this case must be made on the opposite side of the artery, somewhat higher up.

In the contrary case, when the loop is made too high up, the vessel is too much dragged forward, or laid bare to too great an extent, and cannot retract sufficiently, but coming in contact with the soft parts at the bottom of the wound, it is bathed in the matter produced by supuration, which is especially to

be avoided. The best procedure in such case, is to remove a portion of the end of the vessel by a sharp knife or scissors.

The perfect closure of the divided end of the vessel, after the loop operation, takes place, it is stated, in about the same time as after the other operations for arresting traumatic hemorrhage.

In the second of the works before us, Dr. Stilling has presented a very full and interesting history of the natural process by which the divided end of the blood vessel is permanently closed, subsequent to the loop operation, deduced from an extensive series of experiments on animals. From these experiments, it appears, that the divided end of the vessel soon retracts to a greater or less degree in different cases, and at the same time lessens in diameter, and there forms within the vessel, between the part at which the loop is formed and the first lateral branch, a coagulum by which the entire obliteration of the vessel is effected. The circumstances connected with this coagulum, denominated by the author, the thrombus, and the gradual changes which it undergoes, constitute the principal theme of the present work. The following are the general conclusions deduced from the observations and experiments of Dr. S., on this subject.

In arteries, the formation of the thrombus commences soon after the closing of the vessel, and is completed within the first eighteen hours.

The greater the repose of the blood at the closed end of the vessel, from diminished action of the heart and of the voluntary muscles, the more rapidly the thrombus forms, and vice-versa. Hence its formation commences later in the end of the vessel towards the heart, than in the opposite one.

The greater tendency of the blood to coagulate, the quicker the thrombus is formed, and vice-versa. It is formed more early also, in the smaller than in the larger vessels.

The thrombus, is formed by the coagulation with a greater or less separation of its parts, of the blood contained in the closed end of the vessel below the first considerable lateral branch. The colouring matter of this blood, the cruor, forms always the basis and body of the thrombus, and in small vessels the extremity also. The fibrinous portion collects especially towards the extremity of the coagulum, which in the larger vessels is formed by it exclusively. When the amount of fibrinous matter is small, and the disposition of the blood to coagulate is consequently diminished, it does not become separated in the thrombus from the cruor: when the fibrine of the blood is more considerable, and it is disposed to coagulate rapidly, the thrombus is formed of layers of the red globules, and of the fibrine.

The serum of the blood forming the thrombus is partly diffused throughout the substance of the latter, partly imbibed by the parietes of the vessel, and partly escapes through the lateral branches given off at the closed extremity.

The form of the thrombus in vessels either closed by ligature or by a loop, is that of a spindle, or of two unequally sized pyramids connected at their bases by a cylindrical portion, their points presenting in opposite directions. The external surface is in general smooth. The apex of the smaller pyramid or cone is directed towards the closed extremity of the vessel. The body of the thrombus is formed of a cylindrical portion, tapering in the direction of the heart, which, according as it is longer or shorter, causes the cylindrical or pyramidal form of the coagulum to predominate. In the generality of cases the longest pyramid forms the apex of the thrombus—this, however, is often, only the short truncated termination of the body of the coagulum: the greater the amount of fibrine the blood contains, the more acuminate is the point, and *vice versa*.

The apex is always directed towards the still pervious portion of the vessel, —consequently towards the heart in the upper portion of the divided vessel, and from it in the lower portion.

The length of the thrombus is always in proportion to the distance of the orifice of the first considerable lateral branch from the closed extremity of the vessel—the more remote this occurs the longer is the thrombus, and *vice versa*.

Small lateral branches which go off near to the closed end of the vessel and quickly ramify, are filled with a prolongation of the coagulum. In large arteries

a still pervious lateral branch is also often partly filled, by a prolongation from the apex of the thrombus.

The diameter of the base, and of the body of the thrombus corresponds, in most cases, with that of the calibre of the vessel, and, hence they fill completely the latter, but at the apex the diameter of the thrombus is always less.

In the larger vessels the colour of the thrombus, at its base and body, is dark red or black, towards the apex, it becomes gradually lighter, the apex itself being whitish or yellowish. In smaller vessels the entire coagulum is of a dark red colour. Internally, the colour of the thrombus differs from that of the surface, only in those instances in which the fibrine predominates, more or less, in the concentric layers of which the coagulum is composed.

The thrombus at first adheres but loosely at its basis to the parietes of the vessel, and scarcely at all at any other part, its apex is always entirely free: in cases, however, in which the inner coat of the vessel has been torn or otherwise injured, a more extensive adhesion may early take place.

The thrombus is the least firm at its basis and body, more so towards its apex, and at the latter the most.

The coagulum in its first period affords no security of itself against the escape of the blood from the extremity of the vessel.

According to the size of the artery in which the thrombus is situated, blood vessels commence, between the first and sixth days, to be formed in the latter—in small vessels the earliest and in large vessels the latest. They appear first on the body and in the centre, and subsequently at the basis; when the formation of these vessels in thrombus takes place, a plastic substance is formed within it as well as on its outer surface.

No change takes place in the form of the thrombus until towards the termination of this period, when it becomes diminished in every direction, and the outer surface of the base and body to be covered with flocculi, while generally the surface of the apex remains still smooth.

The colour of the thrombus becomes of a brighter red than in the first period, first on its middle portion and at its apex—it gradually changes from a dark flesh red to a pale rose colour.

The adhesion of the thrombus to the inner surface of the vessel at its basis, and commonly over a great portion of its body is now firm, so that it can be separated only by force: usually the apex is still free.

The firmness or density of the thrombus becomes gradually alike throughout, and may be compared to that of a firm flesh granulation.

The foregoing changes take place more rapidly and earlier in small vessels, than in the larger, and also quicker in the divided end of the vessel farthest from the heart, than in that nearest to it.

The thrombus, in the generality of cases, now forms a complete security against any hemorrhage from the end of the vessel which it closes.

In the third period, the thrombus consists of a uniform homogeneous animal matter, its form is similar to that of the portion of the vessel in which it is formed—being cylindrical in most cases, but often however spindle-shaped or conical. Its colour is at first yellowish, subsequently grayish, white, or entirely white. Its consistency is that of a fibrous cellular mass. It now adheres throughout to the inner surface of the artery; excepting, that, at first, a portion of the apex corresponding with the calibre of the vessel, remains still free, but this free portion is gradually diminished, and the cavity of the vessel is completely and firmly closed, presenting the shape of an imperforate funnel.

The length and thickness of the thrombus still gradually diminish, until at length, the entire portion of the vessel which it occupied, to the first lateral branch, is entirely absorbed—and the occurrence of any subsequent hemorrhage is effectually guarded against.

In veins, a thrombus is never formed at the divided extremity next the heart, and in the end farthest from the heart it forms later than in the arteries.

The whole of the changes which the thrombus undergoes, proceed more quickly in veins, than in arteries—and in the smaller veins quicker than in the larger.

In veins, the thrombus contains more red globules and less fibrine than in arteries—the apex never being purely fibrinous as in the latter.

In veins, during its first period, the thrombus possesses less firmness or density than in arteries;—in other respects the circumstances of, and the changes which take place in it, are alike in both sets of vessels.

The third publication of Dr. Stilling, the title of which is prefixed to the present notice, contains an account of a successful amputation of the thigh, in which the closure of the femoral artery, the deep seated artery of the thigh and the femoral vein was affected, by looping the ends of the artery in the manner already described.

The patient was a female ten years of age, who after an injury, caused by a fall on the upper part of the left thigh, followed by inflammation and suppuration, became affected with caries of the femoral bone. The limb was amputated about a finger's breadth below the great trochanter. The stump healed entirely by the first intention.

In a note appended to this work the author examines the opinion uttered by Dr. Ungar, as the result of his experiments, upon the value, of the loop operation as a means of arresting hemorrhage, namely, that it is entirely useless—and has endeavoured to show, that this opinion has been formed entirely from the unskilful manner in which the operation was performed by that gentleman, in his experiments upon animals.

The incisions through the sides of the artery forming the loop, were, he asserts, too long, in consequence of their being measured by the diameter of the vessel. When distended with blood, no attention being paid likewise to the greater or less thickness of the parietes of the vessel in measuring their diameter. The forceps used in looping the divided end of the vessel, were in the opinion of Dr. S. not adapted to its successful performance.

We have now presented to our readers, from the works of Dr. Stilling, placed in our possession by the politeness of Dr. Stahl, of Vincennes, a tolerably full account of his novel operation for arresting hemorrhage from divided vessels.—No one can doubt its practicability, however much they may its superiority, in the generality of cases, over the ligature and the other methods of securing divided vessels now in use—of its real value we profess ourselves to be incompetent to form an opinion—this can be determined only from the result of experience; though we are inclined to fear that the amount of skill required for its successful performance—the time it will consume even in the most favourable cases, and the many readily occurring circumstances which are capable of increasing its difficulty, of diminishing the certainty of its success, or of causing it altogether to fail, will stand very much in the way of its general adoption.

D. F. C.

ART. XVII.—*Recherches Médico-physiologiques sur L'Electricité Animale: Suivies d'observations et de considerations pratiques sur le procédé médical de la neutralisation électrique directe, notamment appliquée au traitement de l'Ophthalmie, de l'Erysipèle de la Face, de la Céphalalgie, de la Migraine, des Dérangemens de la menstruation, des Affections rhumatismales, de quelques Affections névropathiques, &c.* Par J. F. COUDRET, M. D. P. &c., Paris, 1837. pp. 496. pl. III.

In this work Dr. Coudret sets out with the following physiological maxims: 1. that the nerves are true organic conductors; 2. that electricity must be considered as their active or moving principle; 3. that they present, like the galvanic apparatus, two different and distinct kinds of currents; 4. that one of these currents, destined to the functions of sensation and intelligence, passes from the internal and external senses to the brain; the other, destined to the functions of nutrition and locomotion, passes, on the contrary, from the brain or the spinal marrow, to the different parts of the muscular system and of the vast apparatus of capillary vessels.

The notion that electricity is the true nervous fluid is by no means new, and we shall presume that our readers are familiar with the reasons which are usually given in proof of it. But Dr. Coudret adds to this theory two propositions which are the foundations of his work and of his electro-medical practice. They are, 1. that every part of the system suffering under pain or inflammation disengages an appreciable excess of electricity; 2. that any means suited to withdraw or to neutralise this fluid will produce the most evident and salutary antiphlogistic and sedative effects.

The apparatus made use of for experimenting on this subject is called the Medical Electromotor, and is the invention of Mr. Fozembas of Bordeaux. It consists of a glass box or cup, having a metallic base, to which are attached a number of sharp metallic points, extending to within a short distance of the open mouth of the cup. To the outer surface of the base, a metallic cord is affixed. In using this apparatus, the cup is attached by silk bandages, with its open mouth over the inflamed part, which has thus a number of metallic points brought near to it, though not touching it. The metallic cord is then made to communicate either with the surrounding conductors, such as the walls of the building, so that electricity may be conveyed through it to the earth—or it is attached to an electroscope, if the object be to show that there is really electricity present.

The first object of the experiments related by the author is to establish the fact of the presence of free electricity in an inflamed or painful part; and this he asserts that he has done, in several cases, particularly of erysipelas and cephalalgia; and he states that the electricity was always negative or resinous.

The second and principal object is to show that pain and inflammation may be relieved, and numerous diseases cured, by withdrawing or neutralising the electric fluid thus generated in excess; and in proof of this, the author relates, in detail, no less than ninety-five cases treated by the Medical Electromotor.

We shall make but one or two remarks on this work. And first as to the fundamental theory. Though we are not disposed either to assert or to deny that the nervous action may be exercised through the agency of electricity, we think it evident that, if this be the case, it must be electricity in its galvanic form, and not in the state of tension of that excited by friction. For the latter, the whole human body is a good conductor, and we cannot therefore conceive how currents of such electricity could be carried separately along the nerves; or how an excess of it could remain accumulated in a painful or inflamed part. Now the apparatus of M. Fozembas, armed as it is with points placed at a distance, even though it be but a moderate one, from the inflamed surface, would not collect from it electricity of such low tension as that which could be insulated by a moist nervous sheath. We feel confident, therefore, that there must be some fallacy in our author's first experiments. He states, indeed, that it was only under peculiar circumstances, and with the use of great precaution, that he could succeed in showing the presence of electricity by Volta's collector: the individual must be young; the skin must be dry; the air clear, &c. Now what certainty have we, that, in the few cases in which the experiment was successful, the electricity came from the nervous system at all? May it not have been collected from the air, (which always contains it,) or may it not have been excited on the dry skin by the glass cup or the silk bandages? It is worthy of remark, that in three cases in which Professor Piorres made trial of the apparatus on persons in full health, the electroscope gave the same indications as where there was inflammation or pain.

As to the numerous cases of cure related in the work, we must acknowledge that they, also, fail to carry conviction to our mind. When a peculiar system is to be sustained, it is a lamentable truth that medical facts are no more to be relied upon than mere medical speculations. If the hypothesis of Messrs. Fozembas and Coudret be true, that electricity is accumulated in an inflamed or painful part, and that its withdrawal will cure the complaint, the metallic tractors of Perkins must have answered this purpose quite as effectually as the Medical Electromotor, and he made his appeal to facts quite as triumphantly. It is a very significant circumstance, as to both these instruments, that their advocates

avow, that, to make them effectual, the system must be *prepared*, by bleeding, diet, and other medical means. Thus, also, the empiric is always the most successful with his nostrums *after* the regular physician has tried all his remedies. The Tractor of Perkins has fallen into disuse and oblivion. Is it uncharitable to predict the same fate for the Electromotor of Fozembas? R. M. P.

ART. XVIII.—*A Treatise on the Diseases of the Chest, and on Mediate Auscultation.*

By R. T. H. LAENNEC, M. D., Regius Professor of Medicine in the College of France, &c. &c. &c., translated from the third French edition with copious notes, a sketch of the author's life, and an extensive Bibliography of the different diseases, By JOHN FORBES, M. D. F. R. S. &c. &c. To which are added the notes of Professor ANDRAL, contained in the fourth and latest French edition, translated and accompanied with observations on cerebral Auscultation. By JOHN D. FISHER, M. D. Fellow of the Massachusetts Medical Society. With plates. New York, Samuel S. & William Wood, 1838, pp. 784, Pl. II.

THE Treatise of Laennec on the diseases of the Chest has become an established classic in medical literature. Its great merits are known and acknowledged, and to discuss them now might consequently be deemed presumptuous. We may be permitted, however, to call attention to the present edition which is the most complete extant. It is enriched by copious additions by Dr. Forbes, Professor Andral and Dr. Fisher, and may be considered as embracing a complete summary of our knowledge of the diseases of the thoracic organs. It should be in the hands of every student.

ART. XIX.—*A Lecture on Loaxarthrus or Club-foot.* By THOMAS D. MUTTER, M. D., Lecturer on Surgery; Fellow of the College of Physicians, &c. Philadelphia, 1839. pp. 104. 8vo.

THIS is an exceedingly interesting lecture. The various forms of club-foot—the pathological condition of the joints in each—the method of dividing the tendo Achillis, in order to bring down the heel; and the various apparatus subsequently required for the cure of the deformity, are fully set forth and exemplified by figures. Appended is a report of twenty-eight cases treated by the author by the methods he describes.

We are unable to give an analysis of this lecture, as it would not be perfectly intelligible without figures, and we regret this the less as the work can be readily obtained by those who are interested in the subject.

We must not, however, neglect to correct an oversight, in relation to the operation of our correspondent, Dr. James H. Dickson of New York. After awarding to him the merit of being the first to perform the operation of dividing the tendo Achillis for the cure of club-foot in this country, Dr. Mutter observes, "Strange as it may seem, he has never, so far as I have been able to find, reported his case or the means by which the cure was attempted. A statement was promised, some time since, but has not I believe made its appearance." Now, "strange as it may seem," this statement was published in this Journal for November, 1838. p. 96, the very succeeding number to that in which the report was promised.

We may also state that loxarthrus is incorrectly used as synonymous with club-foot; it is a generic term (from *λοξος* oblique and *αρθρον* a joint) applied to all obliquities of joints without dislocation—as wry neck, club-foot, &c.

The following is the author's Resumé of his cases:—Of the 28 cases, 21 were congenital, and 7 acquired.

Varus, 19, Valgus 2, Pes equinus 7. In males 19, in females 9. Both feet were affected in 16, one only in 12. The right was deformed in 8, the left in 4.

Two were in children between birth and the first year; 9 in children between first and sixth year; 16 in persons between sixth and thirtieth year, and one in a person between thirtieth and fiftieth year.

Twenty were perfectly cured and 8 are under treatment.

One was cured in from ten days to four weeks; 9 were cured in from four weeks to two months; 10 were cured in from two to four months.

These results are highly creditable to the skill of the operator.

ART. XX.—*Practical Surgery: with one hundred and thirty Engravings on Wood.*

By ROBERT LISTON, Surgeon. With notes and additional illustrations, by George W. Norris, M. D., one of the surgeons to the Pennsylvania Hospital. Philadelphia, James Crissy, 1838, pp. 374, 8vo.

IN a former number of this Journal (for May 1838, p. 160), the original edition of Mr. Liston's Practical Surgery was noticed, and a very favourable opinion expressed of its merits. As confirmatory of this judgment, we may mention that within a year from its first appearance, a new edition was called for in England. We cannot doubt but that its merits will secure for it nearly equal success in this country.

The American edition is enriched by notices of the manner in which some of the more common surgical affections are treated with us; certain points lightly passed over by the author are fully elucidated, and the details of several American operations, remarkable for their rarity or originality, are given. These additions are important, and are written in good taste. They evince on the part of the editor, not only extensive and careful research, but also the possession of sound surgical judgment.

The work should be in the hands of every young surgeon.

ART. XXI.—*Tenth Annual Report of the Inspectors of the Eastern Penitentiary of Pennsylvania.* Philadelphia, 1839. pp. 28, 8vo.

THE portion of this document, more particularly interesting to our readers is, the physicians' report. The influence of confinement, especially solitary confinement, on the health of prisoners is now attracting great attention, and every contribution, however small, calculated to aid in settling the vexed questions relative to this subject, must be considered as valuable. We shall therefore present a full abstract of Dr. Darrach's report.

The number of prisoners received into the Eastern Penitentiary during the year 1838, were 178, of which 115, were white, and 63 coloured.

Of the 115 white 68 were in good, and 47 in imperfect health.

Of the 63 coloured 30 were in good, and 33 in imperfect health.

The diseases under which the 80 prisoners laboured are given as follows:—Syphilitic 39, thoracic 28, abdominal 15, febrile 11, cephalic 6, various 17, making 116 diseases. Of course some of the prisoners must have suffered from complications; what these were is unfortunately not stated.

"The prisoners discharged this year," Dr. Darrach observes, "classed in reference to health and colour, are—

1	White prisoners admitted and discharged in good health,	- - -	67	} 84 White.
2	do do admitted and discharged in imperfect health,	- - -	16	
3	do do discharged in better health than when received,	- - -	16	
	do do discharged in worse health than when received,	- - -	5	

1	Coloured prisoners admitted and discharged in good health,	- - -	22	} 37 Coloured.
2	do do admitted and discharged in imperfect health,	- - -	7	
3	do do discharged in better health than when admitted,	- - -	6	
4	do do discharged in worse health than when admitted,	- - -	2	

making of the 191 total dismissals, 91 in good, and 30 in imperfect health. The diseases which these thirty discharged prisoners have taken with them into the community, are 13 cases of dyspepsia, 4 of cough, 2 of palpitation of the heart, 1 the effect of small pox, 1 of painful swelling of the inguinal glands, 1 of scrofula, 3 of thoracic pains, 1 of chronic catarrh, and 1 of rheumatism.

"It is evident from the above statements, that the Penitentiary has received from the community, a heavy amount of disease, and that it has discharged very little. 55.5 per cent. only of the admissions were in good health, whilst the dismissals in good health are as high as 75.20 per cent., a surplus of health from this institution of 20.15 per cent.; again, 44.27 per cent. of the admissions were in imperfect health, whilst the dismissals in imperfect health were only 24.70 per cent., a surplus of ill-health from the community of 19.48 per cent., that is, the Penitentiary has been the recipient of disease, and dispenser of health."

The small-pox appeared in the Institution, and out of 401 prisoners, 59 cases occurred, 15 of which were unmodified, and the remainder of a more or less mitigated form of the disease. Two white men died of the disease, and three coloured men from the sequelæ.

"The first case of small-pox occurred on the 29th of January, in a white prisoner, No. 395, aged 48 years, occupying a cell in the lower story of the 4th block, and who had been in solitary confinement two and a half years. He had been neither inoculated nor vaccinated, and suffered a severe, unmodified form of the disease. At the time of the attack, he was employed in mending old shoes brought from the House of Refuge, a pair of which had been worn by a lad, shortly, or perhaps immediately before a very mild attack of varioloid. Through inadvertence, the clothing of No. 395, were washed by a white male prisoner, No. 824, on the 5th of February, who also was unvaccinated. On the 1st of March, he sickened, and after very severe and protracted suffering, recovered with the loss of an eye and with other mutilations. These, and other cases, indicate a contagious and highly malignant character of the disease. It observed, however, the ordinary laws of an epidemic, in the diversified locality of the cases throughout the different blocks of cells, its common premonitory symptoms and type, its gradual approach and termination, its long intervals, and its sudden augmentation within a short centre period, nineteen cases only occurring during forty days, then twenty-five in only five days, and then again thirteen cases only in the last twenty-five days of its existence."

"In regard to the effects of continued solitary imprisonment on the mind," Dr. Darrach states, "two years' observation inclines me to believe that the cases of mental disorder occurring in this Penitentiary, are, with a few exceptions, of short duration, curable, and caused by masturbation, and are mostly among the coloured prisoners. The facts contained in the following table, throws light on this subject."

TABLE OF THE MENTAL DISORDERS IN THE EASTERN PENITENTIARY, DURING 1838.
WHITE PRISONERS.

<i>Prison- ers.</i>	<i>Age.</i>	<i>Country.</i>	<i>Health on admission.</i>	<i>Diseases.</i>	<i>Causes.</i>	<i>Present state.</i>	<i>Duration of Attack.</i>	<i>After Imprisonment.</i>
No. 661	30 years.	Pennsylvania.	Good, - - -	Monomania, - -	Masturbat.	Relieved to a degree; subsequently died of consumption, Do. and at work, Cured; occasionally peculiar,	6 mo. 10 d.	0y. 10m. 3d.
349 22		Ireland,	Scrofula, - - -	do.	Scrofula,	Do. and at work,	2	2
776 37		Ireland,	Disturbed mind, -	Dementia, acute,	Unknown,	Cured; occasionally peculiar,	6	8
835 32		New York,	Good health, -	do.	Masturbat.	Cured, - - -	1	3
675 60		Ireland,	Imp. health, dis. mind,	do.	Dis. mind,	Cured, - - -	4	2
546 31		Pennsylvania.	Imp. health, troubled mind.	Hallucinations, about a pistol press. at his wicket	Unknown,	Cured, yet he says it uses so,	14	5
859 55		Pennsylvania.	Good health, dis. mind,	Hallucinations,	Unknown,	Cured, - - -	9	6
842 37		Holland,	Good health, dis. mind,	Mania,	Unknown,	Continued, - - -	20	7

COLOURED PRISONERS.

<i>Prison- ers.</i>	<i>Age.</i>	<i>Country.</i>	<i>Health on admission.</i>	<i>Diseases.</i>	<i>Causes.</i>	<i>Present state.</i>	<i>Duration of Attack.</i>	<i>After Imprisonment.</i>
No 556	22 years.	Africa,	Good health, m. doubtful,	Dementia, acute,	Masturbat.	Cured,	16 days,	2y 3m. 5d.
322 32		Pennsylvania.	Good health, m. sorry,	do.	do.	do.	7d & at work,	3 5 10
812 31		Delaware,	Imperfect health, -	do.	do.	do.	11d do.	0 2 17
800 18		Pennsylvania.	do.	do.	do.	do.	2m 8d do.	0 0 7
741 72		Pennsylvania.	Good do.	do.	do.	do.	2m 5d do.	0 1 7
888 32		Baltimore,	Chronic disease, & Gonorr.	do.	do.	Rel'd., but with Halluci,	7d do.	1 3 24
924 17		Maryland,	Imp. from Mat. & Gonorr.	do.	do.	Cured,	5d do.	0 0 8
921 23		Delaware,	Syphilitic and Asthmatic,	do.	do.	do.	19d do.	0 0 27
633 24		Pennsylvania.	Health good, mind indiffer.	do.	do.	do.	1m 0d do.	0 0 6
721 24		Delaware,	Emaciated and sickly,	do.	do.	do.	2m 6d do.	0 1 6

"The terms, Mania, Monomania and Hallucination, used in this table, have a fixed meaning; but Dementia is a term liable to discussion, owing to its more or less copious, and its unsettled signification. It is used to designate those varieties of weakened intellect which result from old age, palsy, and kindred diseases; that which occasionally alternates with mania and melancholy, and that in which these forms of insanity too often terminate. Dementia, is however also applied to those cases of weakened intellect, which are produced from masturbation, of which there are evidently two kinds; viz: 1st, that which Esquirol places under the second variety of his third species of insanity, and is called *chronic dementia*; 2d, that which is recent and *may* properly be placed under the first variety, called by this distinguished authority on mental disorders, *acute dementia*. The cases in the table, are mostly of this latter kind. By masturbation, the physical energies of the cerebrum are diminished, whilst those of the cerebellum are morbidly augmented, so that with the incoherence which characterizes dementia, there exists also erroneous perceptions, and a manifestation, more or less violent, of ungoverned and lustful passions. If, through ignorance of this specified cause, and consequent inappropriate treatment, these acute cases of dementia are permitted to continue, they become, I apprehend, the sad cases of chronic dementia from masturbation, which are found in Lunatic Asylums and Hospitals. The treatment in the Eastern Penitentiary, has, as yet, prevented such results.

"The important facts disclosed by the above table, are 1st, that the period of continued separate imprisonment, previous to mental disorder, is very short; in ten of the eighteen cases, it is less than a year, the longest being 8 months and 5 days, and the shortest only 39 days, making an average time of only 5 months and 12 hours. The average time of the other eight cases, is about 2 years and 9½ days. Four of these cases are coloured prisoners, who had only short attacks of acute dementia from masturbation. Of the remaining four cases, No. 661 became first irritable, obstinate and violent from masturbation, then monomaniac, and after becoming fatally consumptive, recovered his mind. No. 349 had his attack immediately after the healing of a chronic scrofulous running of his ankle joint, and now he is at work, with a mild peculiarity of mind on certain subjects. No. 675 is an aged prisoner, who came in vexed about being falsely imprisoned by false witness; after 4 months 18 days of mental debility and hallucination, he is now comfortably at work. No. 546 had for 14 days an hallucination of a pistol presented at his wicket constantly; he is now fat and florid, and at work, but is obstinately of the opinion that the pistol was presented at him, and becomes excited if opposed in this belief. How can *solitude* and *confinement* be the cause of these cases of disordered mind? If these be the agency, it has been efficient in ten cases in less than half a year. 2d. Of 241 *white* prisoners, there are only 8 cases of mental disorder, equal to 3.33 per cent., whilst of the 161 *coloured* prisoners, there were 10 cases, equal to 6.21 per cent., showing a double liability in the coloured prisoners of the Eastern Penitentiary to disorders of the mind, which, I apprehend, is a novelty. 3d. That the less intelligent of the prisoners, particularly the coloured, during the *early* period of their imprisonment, practise excessive masturbation. I say '*the early period*,' because it is then this vice is chiefly practised, owing doubtless to their recent separation from all the low forms of sensuality, to which, in the community, they were slaves, from which, however, they become gradually weaned by the regular six days profitable labour, and sabbath rest, and gospel ministry of their separate imprisonment. The effects of this practice, are first to produce dyspepsia, then acute dementia, and finally chronic pleurisy and pulmonary tubercles. Remove this cause, and the diseases of this Penitentiary will chiefly be those brought into the institution. I am happy to state that my observations, during two years in this Penitentiary, have not only exposed to me the chief causes of some particular diseases, but that they have enabled me to apply more efficient treatment, and that in coming years there is a prospect of less mortality, and fewer cases of mental disorder. In view of the above facts, what effect has the solitude and confinement of

this Penitentiary, such as it is, with faithful, kind, supervision, daily labour, well lighted, ventilated, and warm cells, and medical and gospel visitations and ministrations, to disorder the mind of the prisoners. If such imprisonment produced this result, it has done it in the short average period of 5 months and 12 hours, in the cases of 10 prisoners this year, whilst hundreds of prisoners, some of whom have been in its solitude and confinement for years, have been already discharged from this institution in better state of body and mind than when they entered it."

The following tables show the mortality in the prison during the year, the causes of death, &c.

WHITE PRISONERS.

Prison-ers.	Diseases.	Causes.	State of Health on Admission.	Length of Im. at Decease.
No. 785	Ch. Inflamm. of Bladder, &c.	Large Calculi encrusted,	Admitted with the Disease, . . .	0y. 4m. 19d.
661	Consumption,	Masturbation	Good,	1 3 5
739	Consumption,	Syphilitic,	Secondary Syphilis,	1 0 0
429	Small Pox,	Unprotected,	Good,	2 6 0
887	Small Pox,	Unprotected,	Good,	0 0 20
304	Ch. Diarrhœa,	Ch. Dementia. from Mst.	Debility of body and mind from Mst.	3 6 10
650	Consumption,	Tubercular Diathesis .	Frequent Hæmoptysis,	0 10 25

COLOURED PRISONERS.

Prison-ers.	Diseases.	Causes.	State of Health on Admission.	Length of Im. at Decease.
No. 613	Consumption,	Ch. Pl. & pericarditis	Ch. Pul. Disease.	1y 5m 0d
247	Chronic Inflammation of the Lungs	Scrofula	Good health appar.	3 0 21
686	Scrofula of the Chest	Syphilis	Syphilitic	1 5 10
442	Chro. Inflamm. of Stomach & Pleura	Masturbation & Cold		2 7 10
331	Chro. Inflamm. of the Lungs	Do. do.	Good health	4 0 2
814	Do. do. do.	Chronic Pleurisy	Chro. Pul. Disease	0 8 2
675	Do. do. do.	Do. do.	Good health	1 6 16
834	Ch. Inflamm. of the Peritoneum	Small Pox and Scrof.	Scrofula	0 7 18
716	Ch. Inflamm. of the Bowels	Do. do.	Imperfect health	1 4 29
768	Consumption	Chronic Pleurisy	Scrofulous	0 13 10
446	Chro. Inflamm. of the Lungs	Masturbation.	Good health	2 10 11
574	Do. with Scrofula	Do. Syphilis & Scrof.	Syphilis and Scrof.	2 5 23
990	Do. do.	Double Chronic Pleu.	Good health app'y	3 11 13
645	Inflamm. of the Bladder, with Paralysis	Mst & Ch. Pleurisy	Very good health	1 11 27
653	Ch. Scrof. Inflamm. of Peritoneum & knee joint.	Scrof. & double Chro. Pleurisy	Scrofulous	2 0 3
815	Ch. Scrof. Inflamm. of Peritoneum	Mst & double Ch. Pl.	Imperfect health	1 0 25
548	Chro. Inflamm. of the Lungs	Do. do. do.	Gonorrhœa	2 10 6
647	Consumption	Do. do. do.	Imperfect health	2 1 11
844	Consumption	Tubercles	Good health	1 0 21

"It appears from these tables of mortality," observes Dr. Darrach, "that 26 deaths have occurred during the past year, a greater mortality by 44 per cent. than has previously happened. This augmentation has evidently been owing to small pox, chronic pleurisy and chronic tuberculous inflammation of the lungs; among the coloured prisoners. These prisoners, of which there are 40.14 per cent., have caused 73.07 per cent., of the mortality. The deaths directly and indirectly caused by small pox, and the incidental case of stone in the bladder being included, the total per centage of mortality among an average of 401 prisoners is 6½ per cent., that among 241 white prisoners is 2.56, and that among 161 coloured prisoners is 11.80; and exclusively of the 5 incidental cases, the total per centage is 5.93 per cent., that of the white 1.65 per cent., and that of the coloured prisoners 9.85. These estimates, in regard to the white prisoners, show a mortality about the same as that in the community, whilst in regard to the coloured prisoners, it is about double, as appears by the following table.

Table of the Annual Mortality of White and Coloured Persons in the City and County of Philadelphia, and in the Eastern Penitentiary of Pennsylvania.

Population.		Mortality.		Per Ct
White Pop. of City and County of Phila.	172,306	Mortality in 1830,	3651	2.11
White Pris. of Eastern State Penitentiary,	241	Entire Mort. in 1838,	7	2.86
Do. do. do.		Mort. without that		
		from Small Pox, &c.	4	1.65
Coloured Pop. of City and County of Phila.	15,655	Mortality in 1830,	643	4.10
Coloured Pris. of the Eastern Penitentiary,	161	Entire Mort. in 1838,	19	11.80
Do. do. do.		Mort. exclusive of effect		
		of Small Pox, &c.	17	9.85

"The important facts which this table discloses, are, 1. that the mortality among the white prisoners of the Eastern Penitentiary, is only .75 per cent. greater than that in the community; and that exclusively of the deaths from small pox, and one from calculi, it is 46 less than that in it. 2. Among the coloured prisoners, it is more than double of that of this portion of our city and county. With this fact in view, it is not surprising that, among that depraved part of the coloured population who become prisoners, there shall be an average of 9 per cent. of mortality. This analysis will serve to correct an allegation which has been made, that the mortality of the Eastern Penitentiary is greater than that of the other prisons of the United States."

We have restricted ourselves to giving an analysis of the interesting report of Dr. Darrach, without indulging in any comments, but we must not, hence, be supposed to adopt all the conclusions of its author. It seems to us, that many more facts are required than those adduced in the report, to justify any positive conclusions as to the precise influence of particular causes in the production of the diseases of prisoners, and especially to authorise so general a reference of all their diseases to a single vicious habit—masturbation. "Remove this cause," observes Dr. Darrach, "and the diseases of this penitentiary will chiefly be those brought into the institution." To detect the practice of this vice is usually difficult; to determine the extent that it is practised in our penitentiary would require years of the most careful and closest observation; and then it will require no little investigation to determine how far it contributes, or is of itself operative in the production of disordered intellect. Dr. Darrach's position gives him facilities, which we are sure he will not neglect, for the decision of these questions.

ART. XXII.—*An Introductory Lecture to a Course of Lectures on the Theory and Practice of Medicine, in the University of Pennsylvania: Delivered at the opening of the Session of 1838–39.* By N. CHAPMAN, M. D. Prof. &c., Phila. 1838. pp. 19. 8vo.

THIS, like every production from the pen of the distinguished author, bears evidence of classical reading, refined taste, and powers of eloquence. The view which is presented of the scope and purposes of our profession is just and liberal—one which must prove an incentive to the student to zeal and industry, by shewing him the responsibilities he will assume, and by leading him to a proper estimate of the dignity and importance of our noble calling.

SUMMARY

OF THE

IMPROVEMENTS AND DISCOVERIES IN THE MEDICAL SCIENCES.

GENERAL ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY.

1. *Case of Natural Somnambulism.*—The following case of natural somnambulism is sufficiently interesting in itself to deserve notice, but it becomes doubly so, when viewed in connection with the curious case of double consciousness, recorded in the original department of this No. (p. 49.) These two conditions, seem to us, to belong to the same order of phenomena, as do also probably the Mesmeric condition. It is only by carefully observing and comparing all these states that we can ever hope to remove the thick veil by which for the most part, the functions and pathological conditions of the nervous system are now enveloped.

Madame Flambeau of Vancoeurs has, for about six years, exhibited the most remarkable phenomena of natural somnambulism. She is 91 years of age, of middle height, agreeable appearance and extreme timidity. She was married at 17 years of age, and the year following had a daughter, who enjoys excellent health.

The first act of somnambulism observed in Madame F. was when she was in her 15th year. She was then at boarding-school, and learning music; notwithstanding all her endeavours, she could not fix in her mind a certain romance and its accompaniment; what was her astonishment one morning to find that she knew both the words and the music perfectly? The preceding night she had been observed by her schoolmates, to rise and dress herself, and she had spent two hours in practising and repeating the song.

Dr. VERDET, the relator of this case, was first called to Madame F. on the 9th of August, 1836. She had suffered for some time previously to this period from *intolerable pain in the head*, of a somewhat remittent character. From this she was relieved by loss of blood, and sulphate of quinine.

Dr. V. had then an opportunity of inquiring into the foundation of the rumours afloat in the place, relative to this lady being subject to somnambulism. Her husband who had endeavoured to conceal the circumstance, acknowledged its truth to Dr. V.

The lady rose every night regularly between twelve and one o'clock, left her chamber, walked out, returned, and conversed. Her husband, at first, paid little attention to this; but having soon become convinced that his wife was a somnambulist, he took the necessary precautions to prevent her leaving her chamber; and one night he shut and locked the chamber door, and, having hid the key, he went to sleep in security. But at the usual hour, his wife rose, sought for and found the key, opened the door, and went out as usual. In one of these nocturnal excursions she took a pot of butter from the kitchen and concealed it on the roof behind a chimney. The next day, and subsequently she complained

of its having been stolen. Sometime afterwards she returned it to its former place.

Some days after this, she put on during the night her ball dress, and perfectly dressed and asleep, sallied forth at two o'clock in the morning, traversed a part of the town, returned, and went to bed as if it were her usual time for retiring.

Another night she left her house about two o'clock in the morning, walked through the streets in her chemise, and seated herself on a bench opposite to her dwelling. At this moment a carter passed with his vehicle, and seeing her, took her for a ghost and struck her a severe blow with his whip. The pain awakened her, and made her scream out, but she instantly relapsed into her state of somnambulism, and returned home sobbing and went to bed to her husband. The next day, there was a weal, painful, red and swollen, around her body from one breast to the other, attesting to all but herself, the reality of her apparition in the street. The cartman was distressed at his mistake.

Another night she went to the hospital at the same hour, and after having rung loudly, she conversing with the sister of charity, who knew her situation, and had opened the door for her, as if she were awake; afterwards having asked for sister Regis to whom she was taken, she sat down, held a long conversation with her, speaking very seriously, and, finally, allowed herself though reluctantly to be led home.

One night she went in her chemise to the hospital and rung; whilst waiting for admittance, she was seen by an opposite neighbour, who seeing her clothed in white, took her for a ghost, and having crossed himself, endeavoured to drive her away, by abusing her from a distance and threatening her. Surprised at this unusual language, she became frightened and fled, disappearing like a shadow, and leaving the exorciser persuaded that it was the spirit of a young man who a few days previously had fled from the hospital.

Many nights she walked in her chemise in the burial place, to the great alarm of credulous persons.

Finally, her nocturnal excursions becoming very frequent, and endangering her life, her husband was strongly urged to have a strict watch kept over his wife. To prevent her walking out, her husband now adopted the expedient of locking the chamber door, and taking possession of the key. The first night he did this, our somnambulist, after having in vain searched for the key, opened the window, and jumped from a height of fifteen feet into the street. The shock was violent, and occasioned severe pain in her head and right side. She awoke for a few minutes, then relapsed into her state of somnambulism, entered her house, and with difficulty got up stairs, and knocking at the door of her chamber awakened her husband, who was not a little alarmed at seeing the window open, and finding his wife at the door, with one foot bare, and the other with a slipper on covered with mud. Three or four times afterwards, Madame F. notwithstanding the precautions taken, jumped from the window in her sleep. In consequence of these violent shocks, her health became impaired so seriously that she was compelled to keep her bed.

She had a constant pain in the right side of her head; she was attacked many times daily, and at irregular times, with such violent nervous paroxysms, that three or four persons could not hold her. She was during this period, entirely delirious. The hepatic region was renitent and very painful on pressure, pulse frequent and full; face jaundiced; irregular, alternate chills and heat; and her skin appeared alternately pale and red. Dr. Verdet was called to the patient, and immediately bled her copiously, had her put into a bath, and ordered an antispasmodic draught. The next day forty leeches were applied to the region of the liver and this part afterwards covered with emollient cataplasms; the bath was repeated. Subsequently, the pain in the right side of the head, being the predominant symptom, leeches were applied to the angle of the jaw and behind the ear of this side; and leeches were again applied to the region of the liver. Notwithstanding this energetic treatment, the violence of the disease did not decrease. So great was the sensibility of, and tumefaction of the hepatic region that her physicians did not doubt but that suppuration was taking place there.

Asafoetida was afterwards given in pills and in enemata, to calm the nervous symptoms, but without any benefit.

One morning in visiting the patient, to her physician's surprise, he found the right hypochondrium soft, and not the least painful on pressure. The patient stated that the previous night she had been attacked with a violent colic, had two very copious and fetid stools, and from that moment, the pain had disappeared.

From this period, the abdominal symptoms gradually ceased, but the nervous phenomena continued. After a long and tedious convalescence, the treatment during which is not given, the patient's health is said to have become re-established.

The patient, however, continues to be a somnambulist, but she does not endeavour to jump out of the window. She rises, lights a candle and the fire, tries to get out, but finding the doors locked, she either goes to her spinning wheel, or returns to bed. It is remarkable that she never rises more than once in any one night.

The following is related as her last act of somnambulism. Her uncle, Abbe T. was about giving a feast to the clergy. He desired the table to be laid the night before, in order to prevent his servants being hurried the day of the feast. This was neglected. Our somnambulist arose at midnight, and though she was ignorant of where most of the articles were placed in her uncle's closet, she arranged the table in the most perfect manner; she did not even forget to place before each guest, a common wine glass and a claret glass. She cut also the bread, and placed a piece in each napkin. All this was done without noise, without crowding, or breaking any thing; after completing the arrangement she returned to her bed. The surprise was general.

The domestic who slept in the same room with Madame F. informed Dr. V. that when the latter got up, and was interrogated as to her designs, she answered tartly and almost angrily; she had her eyes open and fixed, and often resorted to flattery to obtain what she desired.—*Bulletin Gen. de Therop.*

2. *Observations on the Fluid of the Vesiculæ Seminales of Man.*—Dr. JOHN DAVY, with the view of throwing light on the nature of the fluid of the vesiculæ seminales of man, there being still a difference of opinion among physiologists, as to whether the fluid in question is secreted by the testes or vesiculæ, has examined the fluid in the vesiculæ, and in the vasa deferentia, after death, in a variety of cases, in the General Military Hospital at Fort Pitt, and in a communication published in the *Edinburgh Med. and Surg. Jour.*, for July last, he details the results of twenty of these examinations, and the inferences deducible from them. The latter are as follows:

“The first inference that appears to me unavoidable is, that the *vesiculæ* are seminal reservoirs, according to the old opinion on the subject, and that which is still most commonly entertained by the continental physiologists. And next, that they are not merely reservoirs, but are also secreting organs, furnishing mucus, and perhaps some other fluid, for admixture with the semen.

“The first inference is supported by the general resemblance, in several cases, of the fluid of the *vasa deferentia* and of the *vesiculæ*, and of the existence of the characteristic spermatic animalcules in the fluid of the *vesiculæ*, in every instance in which they were detected in the fluid of the *vasa deferentia*.*

“The second inference is supported by there being a certain difference in almost every case between the fluid of the *vesiculæ* and that of the *vasa deferentia*, and especially by the circumstance, that the difference of quality is most percepti-

* I may add, that I have observed spermatic animalcules in the vesiculæ of the ram and bull, precisely similar to those found in their testes and *vasa deferentia*; and if I recollect rightly, they have been detected in the vesiculæ of some other animals by MM. Prevost and Dumas. Whether the vesiculæ of certain animals, however, have not a specific use, distinct from that of being merely reservoirs, appears to be deserving of further and special inquiry.

ble in the fluid of the fundus—where most out of the way of being readily mixed with the fluid of the testes. What the exact difference of qualities is between the fluid of the vesiculæ and of the *vasa deferentia*, and, it may be added, of the *vasa deferentia* and of the testes, in perfect health, remains to be ascertained. It can be determined only by careful examination and comparison in the instances of criminals who have been executed, or of persons who have been killed by accident, not labouring under chronic disease, and in the vigour of life. I am disposed to think that the difference will not be found very considerable, and that between the fluid of the vesiculæ and of the *vasa deferentia*, it will consist chiefly in the former being more dilute and perhaps more bland and mucous."

"Relative to the effects of disease on the fluid of the *vesiculæ seminales*, and on the spermatic fluid generally, the instances brought forward are too few to admit of extensive induction. They seem to show, 1st, That chronic wasting diseases, terminating in death, arrest the secretion of the testes, or the production of those animalcules, on which, there is much reason to infer, the active power of the semen depends; 2dly, That the contents of the vesiculæ and *vasa deferentia*, under the influence of disease, retain longer their characteristic qualities than the contents of the tubuli; and, 3dly, That there is least fluid in the vesiculæ and in the *vasa deferentia*, and that it is most altered in instances of chronic diseases of the abdominal viscera, and especially of the intestines.

"Admitting that spermatic animalcules are characteristic of and essential to healthy spermatic fluid, in certain doubtful criminal cases, probably, decisive evidence may be obtained by means of microscopical examination. The spermatic fluid undergoes change rapidly when exposed to the air, and even soon becomes putrid; but the spermatic animalcules, I find, resist change in a remarkable manner. In one instance, distinct remains of these animalcules were observed in putrid fluid, which had been kept ten weeks, at a temperature varying between 50° and 60° of Fahrenheit. In another instance, some fluid of the vesiculæ was applied to linen, and wrapped in paper and put by in a close drawer. It was examined the following day; at the end of a week, and after eighteen days, and each time animalcules were discovered under the microscope. The mode of making the trial was by saturating a small portion of the smeared linen with a few drops of water, and gently pressing out a drop for the experiment. Fragments of the animalcules were very distinct, and sufficiently characteristic; and on careful inspection, an entire animalcule, here and there, was observed. The application of these facts to the purposes of evidence does not require any comment."

3. *On the Veins of the Uterine Decidua*.—Dr. ROBERT LEE says that he has examined many ova which have been expelled from the uterus in the third month of pregnancy, and in all of them he has observed the openings in the decidua reflexa, described by Dr. Wm. Hunter, near the angle where it joins the uterine decidua. Those openings, he says, are of an oval shape, with smooth margins, and they always pass obliquely through the membrane. If a blow-pipe be inserted into one of these, the interstices of the villi of the chorion and placenta are all readily inflated, and the air soon begins to escape freely from all the other apertures in the decidua reflexa, around that opening into which the blow-pipe had been inserted. If a tube with mercury be introduced into one of these apertures in the decidua reflexa, all the interstices of the villi of the chorion and placenta are likewise readily filled, and the mercury afterwards begins to escape from the numerous openings on the surface of the decidua reflexa. The same thing happens if air or mercury be first made to enter the interstices of the placenta, or villosities of the chorion. These circumstances render it probable that by means of the apertures, in the decidua reflexa, which resemble venous canals, there exists a free communication between the interstices of the chorion, and the cavity formed between the decidua vera and reflexa, and that the maternal blood circulates through these. This is rendered still more probable from the fact, that in the greater number of ova, blood in a coagulated and fluid state is found in the interstices of the villi of the chorion, and that by slight pressure the blood

flows readily through the smooth openings in the surface of the decidua reflexa. More or less blood is also found in all cases in the cavity of the deciduous membranes, where these have not been lacerated in the process of expulsion. This fact was pointed out by Breschet and Velpeau many years ago.

The inner surface of that portion of the uterine decidua corresponding with the decidua reflexa is smooth, and is also perforated with a great number of small, oval-shaped apertures. These openings in the uterine decidua are found to communicate with smooth canals, which run obliquely in the membrane towards the uterine surface, and there terminate in larger openings, of an oval form, with thin valvular-like edges. These canals in the uterine decidua have other smaller canals opening into them as they proceed enlarging, towards their termination on the uterine surface. Air or mercury passes readily from the inner to the outer surface, along these canals, in the uterine decidua.

In many of the ova which I have examined, I have observed the little bags described by Dr. Montgomery, on the outer surface of the decidua vera. On opening these bags, their inner surface is almost always smooth, resembling the inner surface of the uterine decidua, and in several specimens I have observed at the bottom of these sacs, a small smooth aperture communicating with the oblique canals above described in the decidua. Air or mercury introduced into these bags, has passed freely into the canals, and escaped through the openings on the inner surface of the decidua. If a blow-pipe be introduced into one of the apertures on the smooth inner surface of the decidua, the oblique canals in the membrane can all be readily inflated, and the air escapes on the uterine side through the openings in the bags, and through other openings in the membrane. In one instance, what seemed to be a small coagulum of blood filled one of these sacs.

The following is the interesting description which Dr. Montgomery has given of these cup-like elevations in the uterine decidua, and which I am disposed to regard as the terminations of those dilated decidual veins which convey the maternal blood from the cavity formed between the decidua, into the veins of the uterus:—

“Repeated examinations have shown me that there are, on the external surface of the decidua vera, a great number of small cup-like elevations, having the appearance of little bags, the bottoms of which are attached to or imbedded in its substance; they then expand or belly out a little, and again grow smaller towards their outer or uterine end, which, in by far the greater number of them, is an open mouth when separated from the uterus; how it may be while they are adherent, I cannot at present say. Some of them which I have found more deeply imbedded in the decidua, were completely closed sacs. Their form is circular, or very nearly so; they vary in diameter, from a twelfth to a sixth of an inch, and project about the twelfth of an inch from the surface of the decidua. Altogether, they give one the idea of miniature representations of the suckers of the cuttle-fish. They are not confined to any one part of the surface of the decidua, but I think I have generally found them most numerous and distinct on those parts of it which were not connected with the capillary rudiments of the placenta, and at the period of gestation which precedes the formation of the latter as a distinct organ; they are best seen about the second or third month, and are not to be found at the advanced periods of gestation.”

Dr. Montgomery has added the following note to these observations:—“I confess I am not prepared (nor, indeed, is this the place) to offer any very decided opinions as to the precise nature or use of these decidual cotyledons, for to that name their form, as well as their situation, appears strictly to entitle them; but from having on more than one occasion observed within their cavity a milky or chylous fluid, I am disposed to consider them reservoirs for nutrient fluids separated from the maternal blood, to be thence absorbed for the development of the ovum. This view seems strengthened when we consider that at the early periods of gestation the ovum derives all its support by imbibition, through the

connection existing between the decidua and the villous processes covering the outer surface of the chorion.”*

If the preceding account of the decidual veins be correct, it appears that the circulation in the human ovum in the third month of gestation is carried on in the following manner:—The maternal blood is conveyed by the arteries of the uterine decidua into the interstices of the placenta and villi of the chorion. The blood which has circulated in the placenta is returned into the veins of the uterus by the oblique openings in the decidua covering the placenta. The blood which has circulated between the villousities of the chorion passes through the openings in the decidua reflexa into the cavity between the two deciduous membranes, from whence it is taken up by the numerous apertures and canals above described in the uterine decidua, and so passes into the veins of the uterus.—*London Medical Gazette*, Dec. 1838.

4. *On the Venous Circle of the Mammary Areola.*—In dissecting the mammae, Professor SEBASTIAN had frequently observed a filament beneath the areola, apparently describing a circle round it; but being unable to procure the gland of a woman giving suck, he for a long while deferred the investigation of its nature. However, by boiling an empty mammae for twenty-four hours, the close cellular tissue of the organ was so effectually loosened, that an excellent substitute for the full gland was obtained. By examining it he satisfied himself that underneath the skin of the female areola a circle exists, which usually surrounds the greatest part of the base of the nipple at the distance of a line and a half from it. In some cases instead of being circular it is angular, its angles giving origin to branches running towards the circumference of the areola; other smaller twigs ascend from it into the nipple itself. Its vascular and venous nature was proved by injection. The circle exists in the male also, though in him it exhibits a somewhat different form. This anatomical fact has altogether escaped the notice of modern observers, at least no mention is made of it by Meckel, Cloquet, Weber, Lenhossek, &c. The indefatigable Haller, however, distinctly described it in his *Elements of Physiology*, vol. vii. sect. 1. Sebastian proposes in consequence that it be called Haller's circle. As to its use, he believes that it has much to do with the erection of the nipple. Hitherto that part of the breast has been referred to the class of erectile tissues, more on account of its exhibiting the phenomenon of erection, than from anatomical demonstration of its structure. But when the venous circle becomes turgid from being filled with blood, and at the same time the veinules forming communications between it and the nipple are filled, the whole apparatus must push up and cause the erection of the nipple.”—*B. & F. Med. Rev.* Jan. 1839, from *Tydsck. voor Natuurl. Gesch.* 11 Deel, 3 S.

5. *On the accessory Supra-Renal Capsules.*—By Professor SEBASTIAN.—“In the body of a woman who died of general dropsy, with tubercular disorganization of the kidney, I discovered, attached to one of the supra-renal capsules, corpuscula of a different shape from that of the capsule itself, not more than a line and a half broad, but of the same colour and structure as that organ. There were evident fibres in the cortical substance and internally a distinct cavity. These characters justify me in considering the bodies described as supernumerary capsules. They could scarcely be looked on as lobes of the principal gland, as they were only united to it by loose cellular membrane. I never felt persuaded of the close relation of the supra-renal capsules to the lymphatic, but have always felt inclined to refer its function to the vascular system. To me the vein issuing from it appears to fill the office of an excretory duct, and to convey either a material secreted from the arterial blood, or that fluid itself modified in its properties, and destined for the improvement of the venous blood. The great size of the organs in the fœtus is thus accounted for, as also the peculiar

* An Exposition of the Signs and Symptoms of Pregnancy. By W. F. Montgomery, M. D. London, 1837. P. 134.

disposition of the vein itself, which is such that by it the whole gland is easily distended. Thus too is explained the fact, that in diseases of the venous system these glands are not unfrequently found either increased in bulk or otherwise unhealthy. According to this view, therefore, the capsules would act the part of a placenta. I have not discovered any distinction between the globules of the supra-renal and renal veins.—*Ibid.*

PATHOLOGICAL ANATOMY AND GENERAL PATHOLOGY.

6. *Exostosis of the Pelvis of unusually rapid growth.*—The following example of this was related by Wm. LAWRENCE, Esq., the distinguished surgeon of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, in a recent clinical lecture.

Mary Petit, thirty years of age, has gained her livelihood by selling fruit in the streets, and has led an intemperate life. About six weeks before she came to the Hospital she observed that the veins of the right leg were swollen, and she attributed the circumstance to over exertion. Soon after, a tumour, the size of a nut appeared in the situation of the femoral absorbent glands on the same side; it did not prevent her from following her occupation. As the swelling increased, and became painful, especially on exertion, she applied at the hospital, and was admitted on December 21, 1837. At this time the veins of the right lower extremity were varicose in a slight degree, and there was a tumour in the bend of the thigh not larger than a pullet's egg. Being of oval figure, with slight irregularities of surface, it was considered to be an enlargement of the femoral glands. It was free from redness, and not painful on pressure; yet the patient complained of considerable uneasiness in the part.

The Ung. Potassæ Hydriodatis to be rubbed on the swelling.

29th.—Great pain in the swelling.

Ten leeches; linseed poultice.

Jan. 1st, 1838.—The tumour is larger, and so painful as to prevent rest at night. The limb is œdematous.

Four grains of Potassæ Hydriod. in two ounces of Decoct. Sarsap. Co. three times daily. One-third of a grain of Muriate of Morphine every night.

9th.—The limb more swelled, with increase of pain.

The dose of Morph. Mur. increased to half a grain. An ointment, consisting of Cerat. Cetac. ʒss., with Pulv. Opii, ʒj. to be rubbed on the swelling in the thigh night and morning.

The tumour increased rapidly, and became more and more painful. Having been at first movable like a glandular swelling, it became fixed, and extended along the inside of the thigh, in the direction of the pubes and ischium, forming a large mass, of firm feel, not painful on pressure, filling up the space between the pelvis and the thigh. In the early part of April, the growth was found to extend behind the abdominal muscles, towards the cavity of the pelvis. It continued to increase rapidly, both on the outside and inside of that cavity, its growth being attended with correspondent general swelling of the limb.

On May 1st, the tumour, which is hard and incompressible, has stretched across the pelvis to the left side of the body; and the left leg begins to swell. On May 17th, it had nearly reached the umbilicus. Her sufferings were constant and acute, and only imperfectly relieved by opiates; her strength was thus exhausted, and dyspnoea came on in June, when she was so reduced and enfeebled, that death was expected daily. She lingered till July 1st.

Neither local nor general means had the slightest effect on the complaint. The treatment consisted in the free use of opiates, particularly of the muriate of morphine, and in the allowance of such nutritious diet and cordials, including animal food, sago, porter, and wine, as the weakness required, and the appetite would admit of.

The disease consisted of an enormous mass growing from both sides of the pubes and ischium, extending downwards to the groin and inside of the thigh,

upwards to the pelvis and abdomen. The viscera were necessarily displaced, the bladder and internal organs of generation being pushed towards the left side; while the abdominal contents were thrust upwards against the diaphragm. The basis and centre of the mass were firm bone, and the growth at its origin was identified with the bone from which it proceeded. The exterior was of softer composition, and displayed a fibrous texture, more or less firm. On the surface this exhibited, in some situations, cells containing either serous fluid or grumous blood.

No disease was observed in the absorbent glands.

The thoracic viscera were healthy.

In its origin, and in the composition of its basis and interior, this tumour was an exostosis; in the rapidity of its growth, in the severe pain which accompanied it, and in the constitution of its exterior, the characters were those of a malignant growth. I have seen a somewhat similar combination of bony exuberance, with softer growth, the latter being in some parts nearly medullary consistence, and formed into cells containing bloody fluid, in the tibia, where, however, the disease was of long standing. The limb was amputated, and there was no reproduction of disease. Had the disease been seated in the tibia in the present instance, it would have been right to amputate.—*London Med. Gaz.* Feb. 1839.

7. *Hepatic Abscess opening into the Stomach by three perforations; also into the Pericardium.*—By R. J. GRAVES, M. D. "The following case contains many particulars of extreme interest, among which I beg to direct the reader's attention more especially to the physical phenomena produced by the simultaneous presence of air and fluid in the pericardial sac, no instance having been hitherto recorded where similar symptoms, arising from ulceration extended to that sac, have been observed.

"In order not to lengthen the case too much, I have omitted the details of treatment; they consisted of local depletion in the first instance by means of leeches, and an attempt to mercurialize the system, which attempt failed, because suppuration was in all probability established before it was made. My experience confirms the assertion made by Annesley and other writers on diseases of tropical climates, that it is impossible, or at least very difficult, to make the mouth sore to salivation, once the formation of abscess in the liver commences. Of course no practitioner who is aware that hepatic suppuration has actually set in will continue the exhibition of mercury; it then becomes injurious. In the following case, when suppuration was ascertained, poultices were applied, and various astringents were subsequently employed, in vain, to check the diarrhoea.

"Anne Walker, *etat.* 25, spinster, of spare habit and nervous temperament, on Thursday night, 13th Sept., without any assignable cause, was seized with a sudden and violent pain in every part of the abdomen, extending to the loins and back, unpreceded and unaccompanied by any other complaint; was immediately bled, but without much relief; continuing in the same state, venesection was repeated the next morning with more effect; hot stupes were also applied. The entire of the 14th (yesterday) she remained in excruciating agony, applying the stupes, and obtained but little ease. She now lies on the back, with the legs drawn up towards the body, unable to turn to either side, or stir in the least in the bed, without an insupportable increase in her complaints: the pains she describes as of a lancinating nature, sometimes resembling the pricking of a number of pins, commencing at the epigastrium, shooting downwards to the pubes, and extending laterally into each hypochondriac and lumbar region.

"Since the commencement of the attack she has been deprived of sleep; much annoyed with constant thirst, and a nauseous, disagreeable taste in the mouth. Her countenance is now anxious and distressed; skin moist, and covered with slight perspiration; tongue white and moist; pulse 128, small and somewhat wiry; respiration 54; no morbid phenomenon can be detected in the chest; heart's action rapid, and sounds natural; the abdomen is tense, hard, and exquisitely painful, the slightest degree of pressure causing much uneasiness; bowels free; urine passed in regular quantities.

"In the right hypochondrium and epigastrium there is a considerable tumefaction, somewhat of a conical shape, affording, when pressed, a degree of elasticity and dulness on percussion; the pain produced in this part by pressure is very acute, whilst elsewhere it is comparatively slight.

"19th.—The only part of the abdomen pained by pressure is that where the tumefaction was observed yesterday; it extends from below the ensiform cartilage to within a couple of inches of the umbilicus, also laterally, occupying a space between three and four inches; and to-day a sensation of fluctuation is communicated to the touch.

"20th.—A violent purging commenced yesterday, and continued the entire night; stools numerous, eight or ten, liquid, and of a dark colour, each being attended with griping and kneading; was much troubled with shiverings and pains in the back; her breathing is more distressed, and accelerated, 44 in the minute; pulse 132, small and hard; tongue moist. No change has taken place in the appearances of the abdomen.

"24th.—There has been no return of the purging since the 21st; the perspirations are diminished, and her general aspect is improved; she now complains principally of pains in the back, continued and shooting upwards along the entire of the spinal column. When the tumour is now percussed, it emits a tympanitic resonance; the lower part of the left side also is very clear on percussion; cannot now detect the fluctuation observable on the 19th; the elasticity remains as before; pulse 116, soft and improved in strength; respiration 30.

"29th.—The tumour in epigastrium is considerably diminished in size, percussion elicits, as before, a tympanitic resonance, but does not extend, as on previous days, to the right hypochondrium; her countenance is improved, and spirits not so depressed; breathing continues too free, and pulse rapid.

"Oct. 1st.—Purging has returned, with griping pains in the abdomen, and numerous liquid stools.

"2d. Purging remains unchecked; the tumour in abdomen has altogether disappeared; no tympanitic resonance is now afforded by percussion.

"6th.—Heart's sounds natural. Percussion and respiration over both lungs as in the healthy state: abdomen sunken and free from pain.

"7th.—Bowels have been opened seven times within the last twelve hours. Pulse 120. Respiration 30.

"9th.—Was attacked yesterday with acute pain in the cardiac region, and last night had a violent beating of the heart, also a burning heat below the left breast. She cannot recollect any cause to which she might attribute this. Her present state is extreme emaciation and debility, cheeks hollow, eyes sunken, countenance dejected, and spirits languid; her breathing remains accelerated, short, and distressed; the jugular veins in the recumbent posture turgid, but without pulsation; likewise those along the trachea.

"Percussion over chest generally is clear, except at the inferior and middle portions of the left side. Respiration in these parts is feeble, elsewhere pure and loud; impulse of heart perceptible, but feeble. About half an inch distant from the lower edge of the mamma both sounds are confused, and a slight *bruit de soufflet* is audible; advancing to the right it increases in roughness, and below the mamma it becomes a complete creaking noise, accompanying both sounds of the heart, and is still louder between the sternum and breast; when pressure is applied it gradually increases these phenomena, and when considerable pressure is used, they are changed into a loud *frottement*, obscuring both sounds, the first especially; they are also rendered more distinct by holding the breath.

"Abdomen smaller; purging stopped; pulse 130, small and compressible.

"10th.—The phenomena are now audible as far as the middle of the sternum, over the cardiac region, and laterally, being in each place of the same character. The sound is between *bruit de soufflet* and *bruit de scie*, in a great measure masking the first sound and accompanying the second, which still retains its clearness. Immediately under the mamma, together with these sounds, but

heard only occasionally, is a peculiar metallic click, affording the idea of some fluid dropping in or about the pericardium; it is removed when pressure is made over the heart, whilst the other noises undergo a thorough change; thirst urgent.

"12th.—The irregular click, audible yesterday only at intervals, has now become a loud metallic ticking, audible at each stroke of the heart over those parts where the emphysematous crackling and other sounds were to be heard; it obscures all the phenomena hitherto noted, except a slight *bruit de soufflet* about the nipple of the left mamma. Impulse cannot be felt. Is sinking fast.

"13th.—Died last night at 10 o'clock.

"Autopsy twelve hours after death.—Percussion over the front of chest afforded no evident dulness; over the cardiac region it was clear. When the sternum was raised, both lungs were found collapsed; the left in particular, which was found compressed by a quart of sero-purulent fluid. Weak adhesions connected both lungs with the external pericardium; and their inferior lobes with the upper surface of the diaphragm. The pericardium appeared enlarged, and a small quantity of fluid could be felt.

"The abdominal parietes being removed, the cavity of a large abscess was exposed, situated in the left lobe of the liver. Its form was circular, about eight inches in circumference, and bounded anteriorly by a portion of the parietes of the abdomen and ensiform cartilage. Its posterior wall was formed by the remaining solid part of the left lobe; whilst the diaphragm superiorly was in immediate connection with it, and the falciform ligament served as a means of separation between it and the right lobe: its thin edge was over-lapped by a portion of the stomach; and near the pyloric orifice was an ulcerated circular hole, with rounded and smooth edges, about three-quarters of an inch in diameter, communicating directly with the abscess. The stomach was intimately connected with the sub-surface of the left lobe by its concave margin; and near to its cardiac extremity were two other openings, one somewhat oval in shape, about half an inch in diameter, and connected with the abscess by means of a canal capable of admitting the tip of the little finger, and separated from the other by a thick band, evidently a portion of the stomach. This last perforation, or the one nearest the œsophageal extremity of the stomach, had no communication with the abscess. The surface of the abscess is irregular, presenting many depressions and elevations; its colour of a yellowish gray, its substance creamy, soft, and reduced by pressure into a pus-like fluid; when cut into, it is at least three quarters of an inch in depth, but does not retain the same thickness in every part; beneath, the structure of the liver is visible, and in firm connection with it the stratum of diseased substance, neither can it be separated from it.

"Where the diaphragm and pericardium are united, is a perforation sufficiently large to admit the middle or ring finger, and opening directly from the abscess into the pericardium; the edges are ulcerated and uneven; and within the covering of the heart are about two ounces of yellow coloured fluid mixed with flakes of lymph. The pericardial sac is increased to four times its natural thickness, but appears equally dense in all parts; its external surface is highly vascular; its interior is likewise inflamed, dotted with numerous red spots, in some parts about the size of a pin's head, and in others forming an arborescent appearance, and looks uneven, being coated in parts with small portions of organized lymph; and generally, particularly towards the origins of the great vessels, with small, granular, semi-transparent bodies, resembling millet seeds, or the eruption sometimes seen in cases of rheumatic fever: its feel is quite gritty, but when these bodies are scraped off, the serous lining of the pericardium is apparent underneath.

"The heart itself is of a light red colour, and its investing membrane is covered, like the pericardial sac, with those granular substances more abundant about the auricles and base of the heart. Both auricles are bound down to the

substance of the heart, by means of strong, tough, and organized pieces of lymph.

"Some tubercles scattered through the superior lobe of each lung. No adhesions existed between the peritoneum and intestines, or between these latter.

"I am indebted to my talented and indefatigable clinical clerk, Mr. Thomas Moore for the preceding report of the progress of this singular case, concerning which the following remarks appear necessary :—

"1st. When the abscess burst into the stomach, the epigastric tumour which the abscess formed did not at once subside, but suddenly, from having yielded a dull sound on percussion, became tympanitic and clear; air from the stomach having found its way into the cavity, while the pus escaped.

"2dly. The now tympanitic tumour seemed so exactly to resemble the stomach distended with air, that we were induced to pass a tube into the stomach, but it did not give vent to any air.

"3dly. In a few days the air also passed from the cavity of the sac; then all traces of the tumour entirely and unaccountably disappeared.

"4thly. The diarrhœa was caused by the perpetual flow of fetid and irritating matter from the abscess into the intestinal cavity.

"5thly. No peculiar symptom, pain, or derangement of its functions, denoted the extensive ulceration of the stomach.

"6thly. The inflammation spread by continuity of structure, from the abscess to the pleura and pericardium in the first instance.

"7thly. Soon after the pericarditis thus formed had commenced, and at the time that its usual physical phenomena were clearly perceived, a new set of physical phenomena arose, dating from the moment the pericardium was perforated, and air entered its sac.

"8thly. Although symptoms of most intense peritonitis existed when the patient was admitted, yet no traces of general peritoneal inflammation were discovered on dissection.

"9thly. It may be asked, why I had not recourse to an operation to let out the matter, as soon as fluctuation had become plainly perceptible in the hepatic tumour? My answer is, that the tumour formed so quickly, and seemed to tend to the surface so rapidly, that I thought it better to wait for a day or two, in order to render the operation safer, never anticipating that the matter could, in so short a time, find an exit by another channel."

8. *Silver Spoon swallowed, afterwards discharged through an abscess in the epigastrium.*—A man in a fit of insanity swallowed a silver teaspoon. Nearly a year afterwards, an abscess formed in the epigastrium, and through this the spoon was discharged. The wound healed perfectly. *Rev. Méd.*, March 1838, and *Zeitschrift für die gesam. Med.*

MATERIA MEDICA AND GENERAL THERAPEUTICS.

9. *Kermes Mineral as an emetic and purgative.*—The *Gazette Médicale de Paris* Nov. 17, 1838, contains an account by Dr. TOULMOUCHE of Rennes, of some clinical experiments instituted for determining the emetic and purgative powers of the Kermes mineral. The conclusions of Dr. T. from his numerous experiments are 1. that the Kermes acts with more certainty as an emetic in the dose of from two to three grains than in that of four or five; 2. that it more frequently purges than vomits; 3. that its emetic action is uncertain, occurring in rather less than half the cases; and finally, that it may be given with impunity except in acute rheumatism, and pneumonia in very large doses; and that its emetic and purgative action seems to diminish with the increase of the dose.

10. *Method of determining the genuineness of Ergot.*—Mr. T. H. WARDLEWORTH states that his experience leads him to consider the following appearances as indicative of the genuineness of Ergot.—If some of this substance in powder be put into a small vessel, (a cup for instance,) and about one ounce of boiling water be poured upon it, the vessel immediately covered and kept so for some seconds, the Ergot should remain totally insoluble, and the infusion should assume a deep pink colour. On the contrary if small portions of the Ergot be seen floating on the surface of the water, and the infusion presents a milky appearance, then the action of the remedy cannot be depended on. Mr. W. has never known it, when given under such circumstances, to produce the least increase of uterine action, but invariably to be followed by more or less of a feeling of sinking at the pit of the stomach attended with irregularity of the heart's action and total cessation of pain.—*Lancet*, Nov. 10th, 1838.

11. *Medical Properties of Zinc.*—By G. G. SIEMOND M.D. Zinc and its chemical preparations, though employed from an early period as medicinal agents, possess many deleterious properties which render them objects of some attention during their administration, and they require to be used both internally and externally with a due degree of caution.

The sulphate of zinc has some claim to our attention as a tonic, but more as an emetic, and also as an application to the surface of the body in states of superficial inflammation. As a tonic from one to three grains may very properly be given in the course of the day; from one to twenty grains where its emetic powers is to be obtained, and it very speedily operates; a larger dose may not prove so injurious as an intermediate dose; in one instance a young lady accidentally swallowed two ounces of white vitriol in solution, the consequences were immediately visible. The countenance became pallid, the extremities cold, the eyes of a heavy dull appearance, whilst the pulse fluttered; an acute pain in the region of the stomach, accompanied with a sensation of burning, came on, violent vomiting supervened; potassa was given in syrup, the pain gradually ceased, as did the vomiting, and a complete recovery took place; on the other hand Foderé relates that which occurred to one of his patients, a custom-house officer, who obtained from a druggist six grains of sulphate of zinc, with which he proposed to cure a gonorrhœa under which he was at that time labouring, he was attacked with inflammation of the lower belly, attended by retraction of the navel, and with severe colic, which yielded only to repeated abstraction of blood, both local and general, to oleaginous emollients, and to the warm bath.

The very large doses that have been given in epilepsy without producing any mischievous effects have been ascribed to the insensibility of the stomach, which it would appear occasionally supervenes in that disease, and the same torpor has prevented the emetic effect of very large doses of the sulphate of zinc, where some of the most energetic of the narcotic poisons have been taken; it, however, has been always considered the most useful of the emetics where an immediate emergency has demanded an active agent of this character, and it has obtained the reputation of being the mildest of the metallic salts which provoke this effect on the stomach.

Where epilepsy occurs early in life, and where there is reason to believe, from the sickness, the nausea, the flatulence, the state of the bowels, and the loss of appetite, that it is dependent upon disordered digestion, and that there is not direct pressure upon the brain, an emetic of sulphate of zinc is frequently to be repeated. Dr. Clarke, to whom we are so much indebted for a proper knowledge of the treatment of the diseases of children, gives his recommendation to administer an emetic of sulphate of zinc in an aqueous infusion of ipecacuanha, and to repeat it in six or eight or, ten days, according to circumstances. To a child of four years of age he has given six grains of the sulphate of zinc in half an ounce of an infusion of fifteen grains of ipecacuanha in an ounce of boiling water. In a child of two years old the dose will range from one to three grains of white oxide of zinc; from one to six grains, where it is not intended to produce nausea and vomiting, but simply to produce the tonic effect which the metal

is capable of doing. To adults, in chronic epilepsy of long standing have been given with very great success emetics of sulphate of zinc, at first once in the week, then every fortnight, and gradually less frequently, until the paroxysms have disappeared.

A curious case occurred at the *North London Hospital*; a female (one account states her to be nineteen, another twenty-nine) was subject to epileptic fits, which occurred almost every day for six months before she was admitted into the hospital. She began with two grains of sulphate of zinc three times a day; this produced a marked alteration in the fits, they were of shorter duration, but an uncontrollable laughter and perpetual merriment were produced; the dose was increased on the third day to four grains; on the sixth day to six grains; and at last, between the 19th of March, and the 12th of April, to fourteen grains, three times a day, when symptoms of gastritis were produced, which being relieved, the medicine was again employed, but then five-grain doses could only be taken any quantity beyond that being injurious to her stomach. During her submission to this treatment, it would appear that it had the most singular effect, that of intoxicating her; the ultimate advantages or disadvantages of these large doses, and of the sequela of the case we unfortunately could not become acquainted with, for the misconduct of the girl caused her to be dismissed from the hospital.

Both the sulphate and the oxide of zinc have been very successfully given in chorea, and many very distinguished medical men have, at various periods, called our attention to them. At the *Bristol Dispensary* Mr. Bedingfield tells us, some years ago, that out of forty cases that presented themselves, thirty-nine were cured by the oxide of zinc, given in five-grain doses, three times a day, gradually increasing the quantity to a scruple; probably the conclusion he drew was such that cannot be assented to by all who have since had opportunities of giving it a full and impartial trial; for he has said "so speedily and decidedly did this remedy put a stop to the disease, that I cannot avoid regarding it as a specific for it." Chorea occurs under so many extraordinary forms, and is excited by such a variety of causes, where there is any predisposition to it, that no one remedy can be declared to be decidedly useful. This disease appears to occur very frequently in this country, or at least it is often developed at a later period of life in females than formerly seems to have been thought. I have lately seen some cases of it, to which the name of hysteria has been very injudiciously given, as it has led to erroneous treatment.

Where chorea exists you will find the oxide of zinc, and the sulphate highly serviceable, and where the disease is periodic they may be given at the same time with quinine, and with cinchona, with the utmost benefit. Out of nine cases, five boys and four girls, seven were cured by zinc; where the disease, however, arises from morbid derangements of the brain, where there is a tendency to hydrocephalic action, where any external injury has given rise to the disease, it fails of producing any beneficial influence. In pure hysteria it is hurtful, generally injuring the tone of the stomach, producing nausea, a constant tendency to vomit, and an increase of the malady.

The preparations of zinc have met with advocates in the treatment of intermittent fever; and in various periodic affections zinc seems to approximate to iron in many of its characteristics. It has been employed for whooping-cough, and likewise for phthisis, but it has not gained any very great reputation as a curative agent in these diseases; it has, however, been found to restrain various of the hæmorrhages, and more particularly the sulphate of zinc has been used for hæmoptysis, and for menorrhagia; in these states it has been usual to give doses of a half to one grain every two hours until a nauseating influence is produced on the stomach, when it is to be discontinued, but again employed if bleeding should recommence. It has been combined with digitalis, with conium, and with opium, and administered in the form of pills, made with conserve of roses, or dissolved in water. It has also been strongly recommended in dysentery.

The external application of the sulphate of zinc has many claims to our no-

tice; the only case of its proving fatal, when thus used, is related in Pyl's Memoirs. The sulphate of zinc was used as a lotion for an affection of the scalp, a scaly eruption; the patient was a child in good health, of the age of six. A lotion, which was a vinous infusion, had not long been applied, before a burning acute pain came on in the head, death took place in five hours; previous to which, violent vomiting, purging, and severe convulsions were present; an apoplectic condition of the brain was found on examination after death. It appears that the philosopher's wool, or flowers of zinc, is not altogether free from danger; for the apprentice of an apothecary employed in preparing some, filled the laboratory with the smoke. He was seized with tightness in the chest; and with vertigo; the following day he had vomiting and violent cough, together with a sensation of stiffness in the limbs; the third day the vertigo had very much increased, so that he could scarcely stand; he was affected, too, with some degree of salivation, and complained of a coppery taste in his mouth; the bowels were severely griped; it was three weeks before he thoroughly recovered, after having been actively purged, and having gone through a fever.

In some diseases of the skin, the local application of zinc has been found very serviceable, more particularly where internal medicines have been employed, and the constitution is but little affected in any way, where there is a chronic state of debility of the dermoid coverings, but it should be aqueous solutions that are to be employed; for in the greater number of instances in which it is mixed up with fatty matter, and used as an ointment, it does more harm than good; indeed, the greater number of the metallic salts are much less useful when the application is made in the form of ointment. The skin in long-standing cutaneous affections, will seldom improve from greasy substances; and, indeed, sometimes, when, on the first appearance of a papular eruption, this sort of remedy has been used, the disease has become aggravated; simple solution of sulphate of zinc, in distilled water, in the dose of a grain to one ounce, will often arrest a local inflammation on the surface, and act as a powerful astringent; nor does it possess any sedative quality. It is a very common and a very useful ingredient in the different applications made to the eye to reduce the slighter inflammations to which that organ is often liable.

Its action upon mucous membranes generally is of great importance; it restrains too copious a secretion from them; allays any irritation that may be present; and has a very remarkable influence upon these tissues when they are in a state either of acute or of chronic inflammation; hence its employment with so much success in gonorrhœa and in leucorrhœa, in the form of injection, and on which I shall hereafter have occasion to dilate. In particular stages of these diseases it is the most valuable remedy we possess, and can, with certain precautions, be prescribed with the utmost certainty.—*Lancet*, March 17, 1838.

12. *On the Properties and Therapeutic powers of Camphor.*—By G. G. SIMOND, M. D. Camphor produces several very extraordinary phenomena on the human body. Mr. Alexander made some very curious experiments upon himself with this substance. Having ascertained that no ill effects were produced upon him by swallowing a scruple, he took no less than two, mixed with syrup of roses, in a single dose; before twenty minutes had elapsed, languor and listlessness occurred; then giddiness, confusion of ideas, and forgetfulness; all objects appeared to move before him, and a singular state of mind, terminating in unconsciousness; during this he was attacked by strong convulsions and frenzy. Dr. Monro was called in, and by accident ascertained what had been taken; he immediately gave an emetic, which brought away almost the whole of the camphor that three hours before had been swallowed. Some time elapsed before the mind altogether recovered its wonted state of tranquillity.

Professor Wendt relates an instance of a drunkard, who took no less than four ounces of camphorated spirit, or a hundred and sixty grains, which had been intended as an embrocation; his symptoms were very violent, but he recovered, from the use of almond oil and vinegar, and there was no attempt at vomiting; and Hoffman gives us the case of a man who had swallowed by accident

two scruples of camphor, dissolved in olive oil, which brought on delirium, vertigo, diminution of animal heat, somnolency, to which succeeded increase of heat, accelerated circulation, and red-coloured urine; he gradually recovered. Different have been the opinions as to its power: Cullen calls it a sedative, Bergouzi a stimulant, and Coruzzi a counter-stimulant. Hoffman endeavoured to introduce camphor into general practice, and wrote "*Dissertatio Medica de usu Camphoræ interno Securissimo et Præstantissimo*," which first attracted the attention of the profession; for, although previously there had been some physicians who had prescribed it, camphor was by no means a favourite; it was "a cold medicine, and rejected," as Dr. Lyons tells us, "upon that account, but more especially, as it was thought, to extinguish all inclination or aptitude for love."

It was in fever of a malignant character, that in the quantity of ten or twelve grains on the eighth, ninth, and eleventh day, to patients labouring under delirium, fluxes, hæmorrhage, petechiæ, that it was most successful, according to Riverius; and Hoffman gave it at the very onset of fever. It has since been used, with great success, in fevers of the typhoid kind, in the dose from two to fifteen grains; it has been also given in the different exanthemata, when they have appeared in their worst forms.

Avenbrugger, to whom we are so much indebted for the hints given us, which have led the way to the diagnosis of thoracic disease, published his "*Observations on the Specific Powers of Camphor in the Cure of Mania*," in the year 1776. Dr. Kenner, in the "*Philosophical Transactions*," mentions four cases of cure of insanity, effected by means of this drug. Fedère speaks of it as quieting the nervous system, and unites it with bark; there have been others who have denied its possession of any power over mania; amongst these Dr. Ferriar and Dr. Laughar. Still, previous to the paroxysm of mania, when the premonitory symptoms announce the accession of violence, camphor should invariably be administered, and from twenty-four to forty-eight grains in the course of the day, may be safely used. It has been recommended in hysteria and epilepsy; but there ought to be great hesitation, as little doubt exists that it has produced the last of these diseases. In 1814, a dissertation on this subject was read before the Faculty at Paris, and epilepsy was attributed to the use of this remedy. In such cases, it is evident that previous evacuations are necessary, and it has been generally observed, that where constipation is present camphor is rather prejudicial than otherwise. Dr. Lyons always recommended after evacuation ten grains of nitre in combination with camphor, and as it produces thirst a quantity of some diluent drink afterwards, and he speaks of it as a remedy, then, of the greatest value.

In puerperal mania camphor has been largely and successfully employed; and Professor Berndt has recommended it in large doses; he found such decided benefit from it, after many fruitless attempts to combat the disease by antiphlogistics, ether, stimulants, and other remedies, that he was induced to consider it as a real specific; he, however, recommends the application of leeches to the head, and also to the inside of the thighs, in cases complicated with congestion, and in plethoric constitutions. In gout and in rheumatism this remedy has obtained some degree of reputation; and more lately, in France, it has been tried in these diseases in the form of vapour. M. Delormel and M. Dupasquier have published, in the French journals, the results of their experience. One of the most useful alleviators of pain during menstruation is camphor, triturated with sugar; and in the dose of ten grains in the course of the day, it allays that high degree of suffering to which some females are subject during the periodical excretion. It has some claims to our considerations in various affections of the mucous surfaces in which catarrhal discharges occur.

The camphor mixture of our Pharmacopœia is one of the most serviceable vehicles we possess for the administration of a great number of the most active remedies, which it renders less likely to be the cause of irritation, from its gentle sedative influence. Although the quantity of the drug that is contained is very small, it produces a very marked impression upon the nervous system; and,

while it corrects the too energetic action of a number of our therapeutic agents, it assists others; thus it increases the action of the infusion of senna and of rhubarb, the decoction of aloes and of taraxacum, while it moderates the action of the infusion of digitalis, or of tobacco. It is of infinite importance where medicines are to act upon the kidneys, or upon the urethra; hence, where the infusion of buchu, preparations of squilla, of copaiba, or of turpentine, are to be used, it is to be prescribed. The greater number of the diffusible stimuli, too, are heightened by it; thus, combined with the liquor acetatis ammoniæ, with the compound spirits of lavender, with nitrous ether, it assists, corrects, and improves them.

Our camphor mixture is formed of half a drachm of camphor, rectified spirit, ten minims, and of water a pint; rub the camphor first with the spirit, then add the water gradually, and strain through linen; although the whole of the camphor is not taken up, yet there is the aromatic odour, the taste given to the water, and quite as much of its medicinal power as is necessary. Of this most valuable mixture two ounces may be given every three or four hours. The old camphor julep, the favourite remedy of every Lady Bountiful, for every disease in her parish, was thus made of camphor, one drachm, of the finest sugar, half an ounce, boiling water, one pint; grind the camphor first with a little rectified spirit of wine, till it become soft, and then with the sugar till it be perfectly mixed; afterwards add the water by degrees, and filter in a close vessel; if the composition be rubbed with twice its weight of gum arabic, it mixes well with the water. The emulsio camphoræ of the Edinburgh Pharmacopœia, supplies the place of this formula:—Take of camphor, a scruple, sweet almonds blanchèd, refined sugar, each half an ounce, water, a pint and a half, and make it in the same manner as the common almond emulsion.

These are of use when blisters are applied; they prevent irritation in the urinary passages. Though doses of camphor have been known to produce strangury, of which Heberden quotes two examples; these have been said to have the power of preventing the contagion of small-pox, of reproducing eruptions that have been repelled, of preventing the narcotic influence of opium; and all these preparations of camphor have their great admirers. Some medical men declare the common camphor mixture to be the only vehicle in which medicines that are to act as diaphoretics can, with a firm reliance on their action, be administered, without, from long continuance, a diminution of their efficacy.

The compound tincture of camphor is a useful anodyne, a fluid ounce containing nearly two grains of opium; it is the old paregoric elixir, and is formed of two scruples and a half of camphor, of powdered opium, and benzoic acid, each seventy-two grains; oil of aniseed, a fluid drachm, proof spirit, two pints; these ingredients are macerated together for fourteen days, and then strained, and the dose may be one or two drachms. The tincture of camphor is rarely used, and then only externally, to excite the cutaneous vessels into action where they have been long torpid; it is hence used occasionally to chilblains, more especially when the itching is very severe; in chronic rheumatism, in slight indurations around the joints, in local swellings, in numbness, in paralysis, it has been sometimes used. It is made of five ounces of camphor and two pints of rectified spirits; these are mixed, that the camphor may be dissolved. Whatever may be the difference of opinion as to the nature of the action of this substance, when it is internally administered, there seems to be but one judgment formed of its very great utility as an external application, and it has some discutient as well as anodyne powers, and liniments formed from it are amongst the most popular remedies we possess; dissolved in oil, in alcohol, or acetic acid, it is used for a vast variety of purposes, for bruises, for inflammation, for chronic rheumatism, for indolent swellings, for infiltrations into the cellular substance; it is employed in poultices for dysentery, for flatulent colic, for chronic indurations of the liver: in the last disease, Maldonado has found it singularly serviceable. It has been employed with much success in promoting the secretion of milk after delivery; and a small bag, containing camphor, placed between the mamma a few hours after the event, has been the practice pursued in France, on the recom-

mentation of M. Dalle. The camphor liniment of London is formed of half an ounce of camphor dissolved in two fluid ounces of olive oil. This, with the addition of half an ounce of the solution of sesquicarbonate of potash, it appears, was recommended by Mr. Ware to be applied to the eyelids night and morning in incipient amaurosis. The compound camphor liniment is thus made:—Take of camphor two ounces and a half, solution of ammonia, seven fluid ounces and a half, spirit of lavender, a pint; mix the solution of ammonia with the spirit; then, from a glass retort, by a gentle heat, distil a pint; lastly, in this dissolve the camphor.

As an enema for worms, and for affections of the rectum, it has been used, but requires to be prescribed with much caution. Heberden mentions that thus administered it brought on pains resembling labour in a female; and I have mentioned to you the case of Dr. Edwards. Very shortly after the exhibition in this form, the taste is decidedly camphorous, and the breath exhales the characteristic odour, showing the rapidity of the imbibition and circulation throughout the whole of the system. It likewise may produce strangury in this form, as well as in others. It is a singular fact, that it both produces and relieves this disorder.—*Lancet*, May 5th, 1838.

13. *Value of Creosote as compared with other remedies.*—There is an interesting paper on this subject by Dr. DA LUZ in the *Journal da Sociedade das Sciencias Medicas de Lisboa*. The following are the author's conclusions deduced from his experiments:—

1. In indolent eruptions, not very extensively diffused, creosote is not more efficacious than other remedies.

2. The long continued use of this remedy often causes an inflammatory condition, which, however, has nothing in common with that of the disease which is to be cured.

3. In itch, creosote is as efficacious as sulphur, tar, and common oil.

4. In tinea it is not more powerful than the preparations of sulphur and emollient remedies in certain cases, and depilation practised according to Mahon's method.

5. It is an excellent cleansing remedy in atonic ulcers, but its prolonged use hinders cicatrization.

6. In hospital gangrene it is the best antiseptic, and the most powerful means of checking this frightful complication of wounds and ulcers.

7. Those condylomata, which are neither cured by emollient and tonic remedies, nor by solution of corrosive sublimate, are not cured by creosote.

8. Creosote has no marked influence on the secretion of pus, and therefore is useless in suppurating abscesses.

9. It has no power against caries.

10. It is an excellent styptic in capillary hæmorrhage; but in hæmorrhage from great vessels, particularly when it proceeds from suppurating of the arterial coats, it does not prevent a recurrence of the bleeding.—*London Med. Gaz.* January 1838, from *Zeitsch. für. g. M.* September, October, 1838.

SPECIAL PATHOLOGY AND SPECIAL THERAPEUTICS.

14. *Treatment of Irritation of the Stomach.*—The following remarks on this subject by JONATHAN OSBORNE, M. D. of Dublin, are worthy of attention: "The treatment of both acute and chronic irritation of the stomach, is to be directed, 1st, To the removal of its local causes, by the substitution of an appropriate diet, and 2ndly, To calming the irritation already existing. The latter is affected by, 1st, Dilution of the contents of the stomach; 2ndly, Diminution of its sensibility, by the agency of cold or heat; 3rdly, The use of astringents in sedative doses, as acetate of lead, sulphate of lime, nitrate of silver, lime-water; 4thly,

Stimulating the circulation of the skin by means of external irritants, bathing, frictions, and exercise; 5thly, Stimulating the circulation of the pulmonary surfaces by changes of air; 6thly, Stimulating the nervous system by mental exhilaration.

1. *"The removal of the local causes, by the substitution of an appropriate Diet."*—When the mucous surface is irritated, it must be looked upon as in the same condition as an irritated portion of skin, with regard to topical applications; and those substances which are most appealing to the latter in the form of poultices, are also to the former, as articles of diet. The food then should be vegetable, and consist chiefly of amylaceous substances, as rice well boiled, arrow-root, &c., stirabout taken in moderate quantity, with milk diluted. It is, however, to be observed, that stirabout lies under the imputation of causing heat and itching of the skin, and justly so, those affections being peculiarly prevalent where oatmeal is much used. It is to be ascribed to a resinous matter, in the covering of the grain, soluble in alcohol, which has been ascertained to produce this effect on the skin. When meats are taken, they should be such as are most free from osmazome, as chickens, rabbits, sheeps-trotters, &c., and should always be accompanied by boiled rice or other vegetable matter, in order to diminish the stimulating effect. Of all animal substances, that which appears not only to have no stimulating effect, but actually to appease the stomach, is the yolk of eggs. I was informed some years ago, by Mr. Daniel Moore, of the case of a lady labouring under pertinacious vomiting, which he completely cured by frequently repeated spoonfuls of raw yolk of egg, although it had been previously treated ineffectually, by a variety of the most approved remedies. Amongst the cases attached to this communication, will be found an instance of vomiting from a congested state of the stomach, in the last stage of diseased mitral valve, in which a similar success attended its employment. I could have added several others, and my failures with it have been principally in hysterical cases, in which, perhaps, it is too disagreeable and disgusting, to be retained sufficiently long to exercise its soothing properties. Eggs, in the form of light made custard-pudding, are commendable; but having mentioned puddings, it must be remembered, that all combinations of flour and butter, in which the latter has to be subjected to heat, and then to be rendered rancid, are not only indigestible, and thus apt to provoke a large secretion of sour fluids from the gastric glands, but are also in a high degree irritating to the mucous membrane. Such are various kinds of pastry, and to these may be added, the rancid oily nuts.

"The articles to be avoided in these cases are, salt and sugar in their various combinations. Even tea should be taken without sugar. In short, let the patient suppose at each meal, that he is going to apply a poultice to the interior of his stomach, and he will not go far astray. Let him also not overload, but eat slowly, and about four times in the day, because mere weight acts as a mechanical irritant, and is felt as a 'load in the stomach.' A habit of eating quickly, is productive of over-eating, hence slow mastication must be strongly insisted on, and in case of defective teeth, the food must be taken still more slowly, and in a comminuted form. These observations appear trifling, but when we reflect, that the food has to come into actual contact with the irritable surface, it cannot but be deemed of the highest importance that it should be presented in the least irritating form. In the whole series of stomach complaints, the physician must have the direction of every thing which goes into the stomach, whether as food or medicine; and to be of real use to his patient, he must be no less skilled in cookery than pharmacy.

2. *"Dilution of the Contents of the Stomach."*—The effect of water taken into the stomach, is to diminish the irritation of its contents by diluting them. Hence, it is the usual custom to drink towards the conclusion of a meal. Another use of dilution, and that which renders it a medicine, is to dissolve the mucus, and thus to render the membrane accessible to astringent remedies. This effect is best obtained by exercising after drinking largely of warm water. The mucus is thus mixed up and dislodged. According to my view, this mode of action explains the efficacy of mineral waters in irritability and chronic inflammation

of the stomach. When an invalid, at one of the German Spas drinks six or eight beakers of the water before breakfast, and walks in the intervals, he washes out the mucus, (as I have proved can be done in the dead stomach,) and thus the small proportion of salts held in solution, acts on the membrane as sedative and astringent. This view has to me been confirmed by experience; as I find that by administering one or more tumblers of warm water in the morning, then, after exercise, giving the sedative astringents to be hereafter mentioned, the most striking results can be obtained, and such as are usually only witnessed during a course of mineral waters.

"Another kind of dilution, is to mix mild along with stimulating articles of diet. This is practised at our daily meals, when we use bread or vegetables in alternate mouthfuls, with meats or seasoned dishes. An experienced gourmand at a feast, will even venture to take things which he knows to disagree with each other, if he has access to good stale bread, as by taking a quantity of this, he is enabled to interpose such a substratum, as shall prevent them from coming into immediate contact.

3. "*The use of Astringents in sedative doses, as Acetate of Lead, Sulphate of Zinc, Nitrate of Silver, Lime-Water.*—I merely state a fact, and am not proposing a theory in describing astringents as a sedative to the mucous membrane when applied in small doses. Let this be judged of by the effects produced, which are diminution of redness, of heat, and of sensibility. Such effects are well exhibited in the most approved applications to the conjunctiva of the eye, and in gargles and lotions injected into the urethra. When the same substances, however, are applied in an undiluted form, then chemical decomposition and destruction of the membrane ensues. Seeing then the importance of attending to doses in these cases, I shall state here, the forms in which I am in the habit of prescribing those substances. They are as follows:—*R. super acetat. Plumbi, gr. xij; Aceti ʒss; Aq. destil. ʒviij. M. Sum. coch. ij. ampla mane et meridie.*

"To the above mixture, an addition may be made of half a grain of acetate of morphine, in case of general restlessness, or in case of the mucous irritation being excited or aggravated by excessive secretion of sour fluid from the gastric glands. In order to give the above and the two following formulæ their full effect, the patient should drink a large tumbler of tepid water on an empty stomach, and use a little gentle exercise before taking the medicine. As for the danger to be apprehended from the preparation of lead taken in this way, I can state, that although now for years in the daily practice of writing the above prescription, I have never seen one instance of either colic or paralysis resulting therefrom.

"The acetate of lead formulæ, I use in the earliest and more acute cases. Next in point of astringency, and more applicable to chronic cases, is the following:—*R. sulphat. zinci gr. iv; aqua destillat. ʒij. M. Sumat coch. ij. ampla post aquæ calefactæ amphorum vacuo ventriculo mane et meridie.*

"The last of these formulæ, and that most to be depended on in chronic cases, which has also the advantage of being well suited to the cases of ulceration of the stomach described in my former paper, is the following:—*R. Nit. argenti gr. ij; Sacchr. alb. gr. iv. M. Ft. pil. viij. Sumat j. mane et meridie.* With the same directions as the two former.

"The success obtained in hysterical and convulsive affections by nitrate of silver, appears to me, to be derived from its astringent and sedative effect on the mucous membrane of the stomach. It being decomposed very shortly after its arrival there, by the free muriatic acid, and by the muriate of soda, causes it to change its properties before it descends into the bowels, where it may eventually prove a laxative. Both in chronic irritation and inflammation of the stomach, it is an heroic remedy, the effects of which, only require to be aided by a judicious attention to diet and the management of the bowels, in order to inspire the patient with the highest degree of confidence in the resources of the medical art. The discoloration of the skin, which causes female patients to regard the internal use of nitrate of silver with great apprehension, I have never yet witnessed in

any of my patients. The above mentioned dose, from being speedily decomposed, appears to act merely as a topical application to the stomach, and as I am not in the habit of continuing the use of it longer than a week at a time, the absorption of it in an undecomposed form, and consequent deposition of silver at the skin, appears next to impossible.

"The last article mentioned, is lime-water. This is to be taken abundantly as a drink, and mixed with milk or barley-water. I might also have included the decoction of catechu and of log-wood, the latter especially, as being an agreeable drink; but I have preferred to mention only those articles which manifold experience has stamped with a peculiar value in my treatment of this complaint, and leave to the judicious reader to supply the rest, by always bearing in mind, that irritable or inflamed surfaces in the interior, resemble those in the exterior with regard to those substances which come in contact with them.

"The fourth, fifth, and sixth heads, embrace matters of the utmost importance, and without which, all others will prove ineffectual in this complaint. Without exercise in the open air, I have rarely seen permanent benefit obtained, and even at the risk of cold and damp weather, the patient must go out every day. Under stimulation of the skin, is to be placed an application to which I attach a high value, namely, that of mustard to the region of the stomach. The flour of mustard simply mixed up with water, applied on a cloth over the stomach every evening, and suffered to remain on until smarting is produced, is a powerful adjuvant, and interferes with no other remedy. It also gives a temporary relief from the pain coming on after dinner, and is generally most acceptable to the patient; it requires no dressing except dry lint or wadding. On the head of mental exhilaration much might be said. Here the *medicina mentis* becomes a most powerful auxiliary. Many physicians know no other remedy of this kind but to send the patient to travel, forgetting how often it proves true, that *caelum non animam mutant qui trans mare currunt*, and that in the stores of the imagination, even when remaining at home, there are many resources by which a healthy interest in life may be excited, alternate employment and relaxation provided, and hopes and expectations for the future enlivened. Of such importance is this, that the patient will not only imagine, but will, at least for a time, actually derive more benefit from a practitioner of high repute, whose words sound like oracles, than from one of inferior eminence, although the prescriptions of both may be the same."—*Dub. Jour. Med. Sci.* Jan. 1839.

15. *Neuralgia of the Testicle*.—This is fortunately a rare disease, for it is one of the most painful ones to which man is subject, and often a very intractable one. Dr. GRAVES, in the *Dublin Journal* for January last, mentions two cases. The first occurred in a young gentleman of highly irritable nerves, who had studied hard and dissipated much. The paroxysms of pain did not observe any marked period, but returned daily at uncertain intervals, which grew shorter and shorter, until at last he had scarcely any respite day or night. There was no fever and not the slightest appearance of local congestion or inflammation. This case yielded to large doses of carbonate of iron freshly prepared, and frequent inunction of the testicle and cord with belladonna ointment.

The second case occurred in a gentleman who laboured under neuralgic pains decidedly of a gouty nature. In him the pain of the cord and testicles used to come on every afternoon about four o'clock, and continued for several hours. The pain was at times very severe. This neuralgia of the testicle disappeared after a few days, and was replaced by a violent gouty pain in the loins and right hypochondrium. The latter yielded to the usual local treatment and the use of colchicum internally.

16. *Method of preparing Sinapiams for the purpose of withdrawing Gout from the vital organs to the extremities*.—Dr. GRAVES says that the sinapiams usually employed for inviting gout from vital organs to the extremities, act too quickly to be long borne; and of course only give rise to very superficial inflammation, and that of very brief duration. To fix gout in a part, *e. g.*, the foot, he adds,

our application must act much more gradually, and must excite the deeper seated tissues. These objects may be obtained, he states, by mixing one part of strong and fresh ground mustard powder with three of flour, and adding as much treacle as will convert them into a viscid paste, which may be spread like a plaster on linen, and applied to the part. This will be borne for four or six hours, and will cause a redness which will last a whole day. The proportion of flour may vary according to circumstances.—*Dublin Journal of Medical Sciences*, January 1839.

17. *Treatment of Permanent Hypertrophy of the Tonsils.* DR. GRAVES considers the best remedy for this affection, to be the nitrate of silver, and he prefers Mr. Cusack's method of applying it which is as follows: "The solid stick of lunar caustic, or some of the latter in powder, and placed in a proper instrument, must be kept steadily pressed against a particular spot of the enlarged gland; two, three or five seconds will suffice to secure the formation of a small eschar, which falling out, will leave in the part, when healed, a slight depression like the largest pit formed by a small-pox pustule. When this has been effected, which is usually in about five days, a similar proceeding must take place with the other amygdalæ; and so on in each, turn about, until the desired reduction of size has been accomplished." DR. GRAVES prefers this method, to the use of the ligature or to excision. When the glands are large, he says, this process usually requires about six months; it is slow but sure; and must be intermitted when any accident gives rise to temporary sore throat or catarrh.—*Dublin Journal of Medical Sciences*, January, 1839.

18. *Spasm of the Glottis or Laryngeal Asthma.*—The following case of this complaint, recorded in the *Lancet*, (April 21, 1838,) by Dr. T. H. BURGESS, is worthy of attentive perusal. It furnishes important materials towards a better understanding of a disease of great importance and of more frequent occurrence than is generally supposed.

"Julia M. an infant between six and seven months of age, of an active constitution and nervous temperament, and born of parents similarly constituted, was attacked with that disease peculiar to infants, and variously designated by authors—Millar's asthma, crowing inspiration, spasmodic croup, &c. &c., in January last, to such a degree, as to threaten immediate suffocation.

"The infant, from its birth up to the accession of this disease, enjoyed perfect health; but it was observed from its earliest infancy to catch, or rather hold its breath, when crying, which was attributed by the nurse to passion. However, this symptom was not paid any attention to, and appeared in the nurse's eyes of no importance whatsoever, for when the child's health was inquired after, the nurse usually observed, that she was remarkably well in every respect, but she was very passionate. It is to be observed, that the mother's milk did not flow for several days after the birth of this child, that the infant was fed with the spoon during this period, but from then until she was three months old, the mother continued to suckle her, being at this time compelled to give up nursing, in consequence of ill health, and from that period to the present, the child has been brought up by spoon-feeding alone. I may here state, that, a few days after birth, the *thrush* appeared, and passed away in the space of forty-eight hours, without having occasioned the slightest uneasiness to the little patient during its progress, although there was a considerable quantity of flaky mucus passed off by stool, still the disease was remarkably mild, and did not appear to influence her health in the slightest. The infant was vaccinated twice during the period she was nursed by the mother, and without the slightest apparent effect, not even producing a blush in the vicinity of the punctures; she was about six weeks old when vaccination was first attempted (the small-pox being prevalent at the time,) and ten the second time. The child was frequently observed, after taking food, and without the slightest exertion, to throw up from the stomach a water brash-like fluid; this sometimes disappeared for weeks, and

then returned as before. Nothing worthy of observation presented itself in the state of the child's health, from the time of its being weaned until it was five months old; the change of food produced no effect whatsoever at the time, at least, no apparent effect; she was naturally coactive, even from birth (her parents being of the same habit,) and this derangement was neither increased nor diminished by the change of nutriment consequent on her being weaned. But it may be here noticed, that, between the first and second vaccination, an immoderate flow of saliva commenced, saturating several cloths daily, and continued until the infant was nearly five months old; it then became suddenly suppressed, and without any apparent cause whatever. The child's health during this period was, as before stated, remarkably good. It is worthy of remark, that from the time when the flow of saliva first commenced, until it totally disappeared, the holding or catching of the breath *never showed itself*, and led the nurse to suppose that her baby had got over her '*passion fits*,' as she was wont to observe. All seemed going on well with the child, who being naturally quick, was increasing daily in liveliness and vigour. On Christmas day, the over-fond mother thought, as her baby was looking so remarkably well, and seemed in the best spirits possible, that she would give her a '*morsel of plumb-pudding*,' which she avers was not as large as a nut, but it appears was saturated with cherry wine. However, the child seemed nothing the worse of this for a few days, according to the nurse's account. On Friday, the 5th of January, remarkable for the dense fog which immediately preceded the severe frost, the child was observed to be particularly uneasy and restless, and this being supposed to have originated from derangement or irritation of the bowels, *Hydragryum cum crota*, gr. iij, were ordered to be given at bed-time, to be followed in the morning by a teaspoonful of *castor oil*. This appeared to have the desired effect in giving the child relief, and in quieting her restlessness, and for the next week appeared in very good health. Just at this period the profuse flow of saliva ceased, and the frost set in with great severity. On the 10th of January, the child was observed again, and for the first time since it was weaned, to '*hold its breath*,' as if from passion; this appeared twice during that day, and still without occasioning any alarm to the parent or nurse; it will be recollected that this day (Wednesday, the 10th of January) was the first of the severe frost. On the 11th there was a tendency to catch the breath observed, but it did not actually occur; the child's bowels were opened by medicine twice or three times during that day. On Friday, the 12th, the inclination was still stronger than on the previous day to hold the breath, and a stifled passion-fit did occur during the evening of this day. On the 13th nothing remarkable presented itself, excepting the child's head being unusually hot. This being again attributed to intestinal irritation, rhubarb and magnesia was administered to the child at bed-time, with apparent benefit. On the 14th, the head was still above the natural temperature, but nothing else was observed; this day the weather was extremely cold, snowing all day. On the following morning the child awoke with a crowing fit, for the first time restraining her breath for near half a minute, and alarming the nurse, for now she observed the infant's face become congested, and a blue rim appeared around the margin of both lips during the fit. However, the child returned to her natural state in a few moments after, and, seeming nothing the worse of what had happened, it was again overlooked, as being of little moment. In the afternoon of this day, another fit came on as the child was sitting in its mother's lap, which the latter attributed to passion, in consequence of her sitting down in place of walking about, this being the child's favourite amusement; this was also overlooked, and the mother only observed, that the child should be broke of this evil habit in time. A third fit came on as the child was being undressed this same evening, but disappeared almost instantaneously on her being raised to the erect position. There were no symptoms of teething present, the child was not irritable in the slightest manner, and, excepting this peculiarity, seemed in the best possible health. On the 16th, a day of severe frost, so much so that the water was frozen in the basin of the child's apartment, although a fire was kept constantly burning there, no fit ap-

peared on waking in the morning, and during the whole of this day only one mild attack came on; but the child's head was observed to be extremely warm, in consequence of which the mother was led to take off the cap for awhile, that the heat might subside, thinking that the extreme cold of the atmosphere would soon reduce its temperature. But this was not of the slightest avail, although persisted in for two hours, and the mother then gave the child a powder as before, containing rhubarb and magnesia, which produced two motions, and considerably abated the inordinate heat of the scalp. On the morning of the 17th, the child had a mild paroxysm as it was being dressed, this was about nine o'clock; there was an interval of two hours between the first and second fit, the latter being more severe than the former; another fit, still more severe than the two previous, appeared after the lapse of one hour, and the nurse, supposing it to be the effects of passion, attempted to subdue it. The disease again returned in or about half an hour after the last attack, and was repeated every half hour until two o'clock; at this time it assumed a much more serious aspect, and the fits recurred in quick succession (the intervals between each being about ten minutes,) continuing in this state for the space of an hour at least. The family medical attendant saw the infant in one of those fits on this day, and for the first time. He had not seen the child for two months before, and on looking at the head, thought it very much enlarged; it was also considerably above the natural temperature on this day, which led him to think those 'fits' were owing to effusion at the base of the brain, and were probably the precursors of convulsions, which he said was to be obviated by the timely application of leeches behind the ear, by the use of the warm bath, and by aperients, such as hydr. c. creta, in two grain doses, all of which was adopted on that evening. It is worthy of observation, that a few moments before the leech was applied, the child had a severe attack of the disease while sitting quietly in the nurse's lap; that on the application of the leech the child screamed violently from the pain of its bite; and during this time not the slightest symptom of the disease appeared. This exemption from the disease was remarkable throughout this case, whenever the child was irritated so as to scream violently; and on this and other peculiarities we purpose commenting, after detailing the facts of the case. From the difficulty of stopping the bleeding of the leech-bites, the infant lost more blood than was intended; still the heat of the scalp continued unmitigated; but about two or three hours after the administering of the hydr. c. creta (the nurse by mistake having given two powders instead of one), a copious evacuation was produced, which succeeded in diminishing the abnormal heat of the head, that had now continued for thirty hours. After the hemorrhage ceased, the infant fell off into a tranquil sleep—the sleep of exhaustion, and which continued undisturbed for six hours; when the child awoke from this slumber it was unusually restless, but the disease did not appear on her waking; the head gradually resumed its former morbid state of heat, and a throbbing of the fontanelles was particularly evident. The medical attendant ordered the head to be uncovered during the day and the body kept cool.

"I saw the child in a mild fit on this day; but thought the disease was totally unconnected with any cerebral affection. I stated my opinion, that it was a nervo-laryngeal affection, probably spasm of the glottis; that the exciting cause was derangement of the alimentary canal, arising from costiveness. I lanced the gums immediately, in case dental irritation was a cause of the disease, passing the instrument as deep as the maxilla, but there was not the least appearance of teeth, the child being now near six months old. During the two following days, there was no recurrence of the disease, but about two o'clock on the third day there was a severe fit of crowing.

"There was no apparent cause for this attack, and it came on whilst the little patient was sitting quietly with its nurse. I saw the child during this fit, and was convinced that it was a well-marked example of the disease commonly called the '*crowing inspiration of children*,' &c., and of a purely nervous character. Any individual who had once seen this affection could never mistake it again for any of those diseases incidental to the infantile age. On the 29d, I

had a consultation with Dr. Marshall Hall respecting this disease, when it was agreed that if possible the child should be provided with a young and healthy nurse; and if this could not be acquired, asses milk might be substituted; that the gums were to be freely lanced at least once a week, and the bowels kept regular by mild aperients. Dr. Marshall Hall did not at this time see the child in a fit of the disease, but from the description given was convinced of the existence of the affection under consideration; the warm bath was also recommended every other night, and strict attention to the antiphlogistic plan as regards nourishment. By this treatment the disease was warded off until the evening of Monday, the 29th, when the child had a very severe attack, bordering on convulsions; she was immediately put into a warm bath, which perfectly relieved her for the time being; and after taking a powder containing rhubarb and magnesia, fell asleep in the nurse's arms.

The child now, for the first time, began to evince symptoms of terror at each accession of the disease; formerly she never appeared in the least degree alarmed before or after the fits. No medical man saw the infant this evening; and as she appeared quite well next morning, the mother thought it unnecessary to have medical advice. During the next four days the disease appeared only three times, but the fits were of much longer duration than any of the preceding. On the 5th of February, the disease being aggravated, Dr. Marshall Hall and myself again saw our patient. During our visit the child had two severe fits of the disease; these were the first which Dr. Marshall Hall saw this infant have, and was now convinced that there was no cerebral affection existing as a cause of this disease. He also agreed with me in attributing it solely to a derangement of the alimentary canal, the motions being black and slimy, without a tinge of bile, and these produced with difficulty, even by the aid of medicine. The bowels were ordered to be briskly purged, and Dr. Marshall Hall recommended hydrocyanic acid as an antispasmodic, in the proportion of a minim to the ounce, a teaspoonful to be given occasionally after the bowels were acted on. I saw the child early next morning, and was informed by the nurse that the medicine had opened twice, but the motions were still dark and scanty; that she had administered the hydrocyanic acid once only since the bowels were opened, and only one crow came on during the night.

"The child was sleeping when I made my visit; the breathing was evidently laborious, and sometimes stertorous during the time I was present. The child awoke after the lapse of ten minutes, crying, but had not an attack of the disease. I could now perceive a peculiar *rudesse de la voix*, or raucity of voice, especially in the act of crying, and which was not at all observed before this day. After walking about the room for a few minutes, the nurse proceeded to administer the hydrocyanic acid a second time, and with great difficulty could get the child to take it. From the irritation produced by forcing the little patient to take the acid mixture, a paroxysm of the disease was brought on, which began like one of the mild attacks that were heretofore observed, but rose gradually to a fearful height. The first evidence the child gave of the approaching spasm was by bending the *body forwards*, as in *emprostotonos*,* and not backwards, as Dr. Clarke observed in the cases he relates. She seemed gasping for breath, and darted her head on all sides, as if seeking for air. There was now a momentary pause, in which the respiration was totally suspended; and this was immediately followed by a sound deep in the larynx, resembling the '*death rattle*,' or the rushing of waters, which led me to suppose that some of the liquid had passed into the air passages.

"The face now assumed a purple cast; the eyes were uplifted, presenting that peculiar appearance denominated '*pathetic*;' the pupils were widely dilated, and a deep blue, or livid areola appeared around the margin of the lips and eye-

* Dr. Marshall Hall had never seen this state of contraction before; and this is the case he alludes to in his last lecture, where he states "the fifth case I saw there was *emprostotonos* and contraction of the pupils during the spasm, with dilatation afterwards."

side; the body was still bent downwards, and rigidly retained in that position. The thumb was clenched in the hand; the arms and legs were strongly contracted; in a word, the entire body was in a state of the most rigid spasm. The gurgling sound of the air passages terminated in two or three *impeded attempts* at inspiration, which were at length followed by a long, loud, and shrill *crowing* inspiration, resembling that of *pertussis*; and the little sufferer, instead of crying, as formerly, now, from the extreme exhaustion, fell over in the nurse's arms, into a deep slumber; at first the breathing was heavy, but it soon became perfectly tranquil, and in this way she reposed for near one hour. The following four days the paroxysms were milder, but more frequent than heretofore; and on Saturday, the 16th, they became greatly aggravated, and the danger of asphyxia was extreme; towards the evening of that day a violent paroxysm came on, far surpassing any of the former; the child lay perfectly stiff in my arms for some moments, and in this state, *with her clothes still on*, I plunged her up to her middle into a warm bath, which was ordered to be kept in readiness in case of any emergency. Dr. Tweedie came in just as the child was being removed from the bath, and was present during two paroxysms of the disease. I omitted saying that the fit previous to the warm bath being used terminated in convulsions, the first and last time during the progress of the disease, that they appeared.

"Dr. Tweedie thought the disease was now at its height, and the infant's life was in considerable danger; that *during the paroxysm* nothing could be done to alleviate the sufferings or avert the danger of strangulation, and they must only be allowed to take their course; and owing to the great terpidity of the bowels the most active remedies must be had recourse to. During the last four-and-twenty hours there was only one scanty motion, dark-coloured, and of the consistence of *putty*, although the child had taken three powders within that space, containing one grain and a half of calomel, with five of the dried carbonate of soda. The mercurial purgatives will be found, in general, improved in their action by the addition of this alkali, and followed up by a teaspoonful of castor oil. It was now agreed upon that one grain of calomel, three of scammony, and three of rhubarb, in the form of a powder, was to be administered immediately, and in two or three hours after a teaspoonful of the common black mixture, should be given; if this did not operate the powders were to be repeated until the bowels were moved. Injections of warm water having failed repeatedly on former occasions were not resorted to on this. The powders and black draught were administered twice, and after the lapse of eight hours and a half *one dark-coloured* motion was produced. The medicine not operating, as was expected, though six powders of the above strength were administered within the twenty-four hours, I changed the three grains of rhubarb for three of jalap next day, after a single dose of which the bowels were copiously discharged.

"At the mother's anxious request, I sat up all night with my little patient, as she dreaded the convulsions again coming on. However, nothing serious occurred in the night, but towards morning the child had *two modified attacks* of laryngeal asthma, the disease having evidently yielded to the influence of the medicine that had been administered. The powders were repeated every four or six hours from the last dangerous attack, until the disease was greatly abated. There was no accession of the paroxysms from Saturday evening until Monday evening, the 19th of February. Dr. Tweedie saw the child this day, and considered her greatly improved. He was surprised that her spirits, which were still active and lively in the extreme, were not in the slightest affected by the brisk and continued purgation, and the exhaustion produced by the disease itself when the paroxysms were so frequent and severe. On the morning of Tuesday, the 13th, the little patient not having had any medicine for nine hours previous, evinced a tendency towards the *crowing* inspiration again, the same peculiar *rudesse de la voix* as before mentioned, became again apparent. The calomel and drastic purgatives were immediately administered, and after the lapse of two hours, during which the *crowing* tendency continued, a copious

evacuation (but still unhealthy) was produced; four hours after the last was given another was repeated, which also operated briskly, and the motions were not quite so dark as before, but still not natural; each of these powders was followed in due time by a spoonful of the common black draught to accelerate their action.

"Dr. Marshall Hall now strongly urged change of air for the child, as he had two little patients within the last season, which were quite recovered by it, after the use of medicine. However, the inclement state of the weather at the time would not permit of an immediate change, and the child was now swathed in flannel, and the heat of the room was regulated by the thermometer to between fifty-eight and sixty degrees of Fahrenheit. I find nothing particular noted down in my case book during the three following days (those are the 14th, 15th, and 16th,) respecting the disease, but that the bowels were still kept freely open by the same remedies. On the 17th, I was wishful to substitute a mild aperient—hydr. c. creta, for the very severe remedies which had now been used for a week; accordingly the former medicine was administered in three grain doses, three times during the ensuing twenty-four hours, but without any effect, and the evidence of approaching spasm being again apparent, I immediately had recourse to the drastic purgatives, which operated after three hours, and banished the threatening symptoms of the disease.

"On the 18th, the child appeared uneasy and restless, but no appearance of the disease presented itself, and I again lanced the gums, being the third time since the disease assumed its dangerous aspect. The only medicine that was administered this day was a teaspoonful of castor oil, which operated mildly on the bowels.

"On the 19th and 20th the child was doing well, and lively in the extreme.

"I saw my little patient on the 21st, at noon, and the disease appeared almost gone. The nurse informed me she had only one paroxysm within the last twenty-four hours, and that the bowels were opened twice during the same time without the aid of any medicine. I now strongly urged the mother to remove, for even a few weeks, to one of the villages around London, and this she accordingly did on the following day, February 23d. Although the first week after the removal to the country, the weather was very severe, still the child appeared benefitted considerably by the change, as not a single crowing inspiration was observed during that time, notwithstanding her being confined to her nursery from the day she was removed until the 1st of March. The bowels were still torpid, and an occasional mild aperient was necessary to keep them open; but from this time until the present nothing of any importance occurred (excepting one *threatened* paroxysm) in the infant's hygiene, the disease appearing to have altogether subsided, and the little patient is now daily progressing in health and vigour.

"The following facts, detached from the history of the preceding case, are those which particularly demand our attention.

"First.—That the infant, from its birth, evinced a tendency to spasm of the larynx.

"Second.—That during the continuance of the profuse flow of saliva, this tendency to spasm totally disappeared, from which it would appear that dentition was the cause of it, more especially as the symptoms reappeared on the suppression of the discharge.

"Third.—That the spasmodic paroxysms assumed a quotidian form, recurring at two o'clock each afternoon, *for some days*, and disappearing during the intermission.

"Fourth.—That there was no cerebral affection whatsoever as a cause of this disease.

"Fifth.—That the irritation produced by crying, or screaming violently, *seldom or never brought on a paroxysm* of the disease, this being contrary to all other recorded accounts of the same affection.

"Sixth.—The *emprosatonic* contraction of the body, in contradistinction to the cases narrated by Dr. Clarke and others.

"Seventh.—The contracted state of the pupils during the paroxysm, and dilatation afterwards, which state I believe has not been hitherto recorded, except in last week's *Lancet*, where Dr. Hall alludes to this case in his lecture..

"Eighth, and last.—The obstinate torpidity of the bowels, which in this instance appears to be, without doubt, the real exciting cause of the disease."

19. *Efficacy of Emetics in removing Paralysis of the Facial Nerve.*—Dr. C. J. HEIDLER, of Marienbad, relates in *Rust's Magazin*, (Bd. xlix. Heft 2.) the two following cases to show the efficacy of emetics in removing paralysis of the facial nerve. We have several times witnessed their utility in our own practice.

Case 1. A man, *ætat.* 44, of rather feeble constitution, complained of a feeling of fulness in the head after a morning of rather severe study. In the afternoon, during an excursion to the country, he exposed himself to cold, and on his return home became aware of a slight difficulty of rounding the mouth in spitting. This symptom gradually increased till the case assumed the aspect of a mild form of paralysis of one side of the face. There was still slight congestion of the brain, and the whole vascular system was a little excited. The tongue was affected only in a slight degree. The diagnosis was—a congested, or perhaps an inflammatory state of the root or trunk of the facial nerve. Venesection of twelve ounces, a blister to the nape of the neck, cold applications to the head, and an emetic. The only immediate consequence of these remedies was the partial relief of the congestion of the head. The patient passed a good night; but on the second day the paralysis seemed to have increased rather than have diminished: leeches were, in consequence, applied behind the ears and to the nape of the neck, and sinapisms to the feet; the cold applications to the head were continued. In the afternoon a blister was applied behind the ear; the back and the calves of the leg were drycupped, and a drastic purgative prescribed; but these measures failed in producing any apparent diminution of the paralysis. On the afternoon of the third day, another venesection of ten ounces was made, in consequence of a return of the symptoms of cerebral congestion; ice was kept applied to the head, and in the evening an emetic was administered. This was followed in some hours by a sensible diminution of the paralysis and the disappearance of the cerebral fulness. On the fourth day warm cataplasms were applied to the affected cheek; but cold applications to the head were repeatedly substituted, when the symptoms of congestion threatened to appear. On the fifth day there were again slight congestion, for which leeches were applied, and an emetic given in the evening, but without in any degree removing the paralysis. On the sixth and seventh days the warm cataplasms were occasionally applied, and another emetic was administered in the forenoon of the latter day, which produced copious vomiting. In the evening the patient regained some power over the affected muscles, and during the two following days it continued to increase; the warm cataplasms being occasionally applied. On the eleventh day another emetic was ordered, which produced still further diminution of the paralysis, which eight days sufficed to remove entirely.

Case 2. A woman *ætat.* 40, of weak constitution, was affected with violent inflammation of the left ear, which apparently extended to the brain and corresponding facial nerve, leaving, after its removal, a total paralysis of the muscles of this side of the face. Four weeks after the inflammation had ceased, all the branches of the facial nerve, but particularly its trunk immediately after its exit from the cranium, still showed considerable sensibility on pressure. The brain was affected in a slight degree, and the whole of the left side of the head felt tight and uncomfortable. The commissure of the mouth and the eyeball were nearly immoveable, and considerable difficulty was experienced in moving the eyelids, which during sleep remained half open. The intellect was slightly affected, and a feeling of numbness in the hand and foot of the affected side gave rise to suspicions of threatening apoplexy. Such was the state of the patient in the sixth week after removal of the inflammation, notwithstanding the energetic employment of counterirritation and other remedies. A slight indigestion was at this period the cause of an emetic being administered, which had the effect of

producing a sensible diminution of the paralysis. The patient made no further advance towards recovery during the next eight days: a second emetic was then exhibited, which was followed by a similar diminution of the symptoms. Seven emetics were thus successively given at longer or shorter intervals, with the final result of removing completely the paralytic affection.—*B. & F. Med. Rev.* Jan. 1839.

90. *Hepatic Abscess*.—We transfer to our pages from the *India Journal of Medical and Physical Science*, (July, 1838,) the following table of 41 fatal cases of hepatic abscess, with the interesting remarks appended to it, by Dr. JACKSON, the Surgeon to the Regiment.

Table of fatal cases of Hepatic Abscess, which occurred in H. M's. sixth Regt. at Colaba, Bombay, from July, 1836, to Dec. 1837.

Number.	Age.	Years in India.	Head of Admission.	Date of Admission.	Number of days in Hospital.	Number.	Age.	Years in India.	Head of Admission.	Date of Admission.	Number of days in Hospital.
1	29	10	Dysentery ac.	11 July, 36	17	22	43	12	Hepatitis ac.	3 April, 37	7
2	22	2	Hepatitis chr.	24 "	45	23	33	11	Dysent.	6 "	41
3	28	9	Idem.	30 Nov. "	18	24	46	12	Hepat.	13 "	52
4	31	10	Hepatitis ac.	5 Dec. "	24	25	30	11	Pneumonia	7 May, "	12
5	30	10	Idem.	19 "	20	26	35	12	Hepatitis ac.	21 "	13
6	35	12	Idem.	19 "	28	27	1	11	Dysent. ac.	21 "	9
7	21	15	Dysent. ac.	20 "	53	28	5	9	Idem.	23 "	31
8	27	11	Idem.	21 "	15	29	1	10	Hepatitis	25 "	58
9	32	11	Hepat. ac.	25 "	18	30	46	12	Idem. chr.	8 June, "	34
10	32	12	Idem.	3 Jan. 37.	61	31	28	11	Idem.	27 "	45
11	32	12	Dysent. ac.	20 "	9	32	39	8	Idem.	7 July, "	13
12	19	2	Idem.	21 "	10	33	33	10	Dysent. ac.	9 "	44
13	32	11	Hepatitis chr.	21 "	7	34	37	17	Hepatitis chr.	16 "	108
14	30	11	Idem. ac.	23 "	60	35	39	10	Dysent. ac.	3 Aug. "	16
15	38	12	Dysent. chr.	8 Feb. "	2	36	37	10	Idem.	10 "	7
16	33	9	Idem.	8 "	133	37	32	11	Hepatitis ac.	25 S pt. "	9
17	45	12	Idem.	11 "	7	38	41	12	Dysent. chr.	1 Oct. "	11
18	47	11	Idem.	14 "	6	39	36	12	Idem.	9 Dec. "	5
19	33	12	Hepat. ac.	5 Mar. "	19	40	22	2	Idem.	14 "	8
20	39	21	Dysent.	16 "	15	41	30	11	Hepatitis ac.	15 "	11
21	46	22	Idem.	16 "	4						

"Here is a frightful table of casualties from one disease!! against which I can scarcely bring a well marked case of a similar nature terminating in recovery.

"The disease was insidious, and the symptoms obscure, seldom in the first instance referrible to the seat of the disorganization. In the worst cases pain in the side was either absent, or so slight as not to be complained of by the patient. In many the figure of the right side of the trunk was perfectly natural. Again in others there was an enlargement in the Epigastric and right Hypochondrial regions, varying from a slight fulness to an enormous bulging out, and the latter generally took place suddenly.

"The symptoms most characteristic of the disease were, irregular paroxysms of fever, with profuse clammy partial perspirations. Pulse remarkably soft and compressible, sleepless nights, total loss of appetite, sallow or livid countenance, features shrunk. Tongue of a dark green colour, often without fur, sometimes morbidly clear. Taste vitiated or lost. Urine scanty and of a high colour, extreme whiteness of the skin, particularly of the hands. Emaciation and depression of spirits.

"There was nothing remarkable in the stools on admission, but flux generally supervened. The patient complained of sense of emptiness in the epigastric region, which he in vain attempted to relieve by swallowing what ingesta he could. There was no pain on pressure, but inability to lie on either side: impeded respiration, dulness or percussion of right side of the thorax and absence of the respiratory murmur. Pain shooting up the right side of the walls of the thorax and affecting the scapula and shoulder was a common symptom.

"No. 37 and two other cases had been in hospital for indescribable anomalous complaints, under the head of dyspepsia, remained for several weeks, when some of the above symptoms indicated the formation of matter. Others apparently well in barracks, or so slightly ill as not to be aware that any thing was the matter, remained so until the disease suddenly assumed a serious aspect, and the patient was admitted in a state of collapse.

"Some had been the subjects of previous attacks of hepatitis: in these it was presumed, that an acute attack supervened, while the organ was in a state of chronic inflammation, or softening and ran rapidly into suppuration.

"In several of the casualties under the head of dysentery, abscess was not suspected during life. In almost all the cases of hepatitis, the diagnosis formed at an early period, from the general symptoms and history of the case, turned out but too correct; the more immediate cause of death was hectic fever or colliquative diarrhoea, and this event generally took place before the abscess burst. They generally pointed (when this did take place) on the epigastric or infra mammary region between the ribs. In three cases the abscess was opened: only one of these recovered. Opening them generally accelerated a fatal termination by aggravating the irritative fever. Two cases, not included in the above table, came under my care: both were opened. From one, a hundred ounces of pus came away the first 20 minutes, and 350 more next day, which afforded only temporary relief.

"In none did the abscess burst externally, nor into the intestine, in one into the lung, in one only into the peritoneal sac.

"Upon inspection of the bodies after death we often found destruction of the whole right lobe of the liver, involving the peritoneal lining posteriorly. The right lobe was more frequently the seat of abscess than the left. In some there was one or two large abscesses, in others a number of small ones, of different sizes, generally not communicating with each other, lined by a cyst of different degrees of consistence, in some semi-cartilaginous, in others thin. The contents varied in colour, consistence, and appearance. These were thin, serous, ichorous, milky, flaky, jelly-looking or of the consistence of healthy pus, and often containing large portions of degenerated liver. Those portions of the liver not involved, were of a grayish colour and in a state of softening. The substance of the gland immediately surrounding an abscess did not differ in colour or mechanical properties from the other parts. In No. 25 Pneumonia, the diagnosis was altogether wrong, the patient had been ill many days under canvass and in ship board his left lung was nearly obliterated by the abscess pushing up the diaphragm and extending as high up in the chest as the second or third rib.

"In No. 14 the patient expectorated pus many days before his death; upon a careful post-mortem examination no communication between the liver and lung could be traced. In two-thirds of the fatal cases of dysentery last year, hepatic abscess was found to have co-existed. It is worthy of remark that when we had the greatest number of cases of hepatic abscess, there were remarkably few cases of abscess in other parts of the body, scarcely any not even boils.

"From the table it appears that the majority of these fatal cases occurred in men who had been ten and twelve years in India and who were between 30 and 40 years of age. Seven were upwards of forty, while four were recruits.

"Some of the patients evinced symptoms of scorbutus, and I suspect that in all of them a latent scorbutic diathesis existed to a greater or less extent. Scorbutic hepatitis is as reasonable as scorbutic dysentery, and perhaps the term is as expressive of the nature of one disease as the other. This scorbutic taint may

have been complicated with a purulent diathesis pus separated from the blood without previous inflammation and deposited in an organ in a state of softening.

"With regard to the treatment, our principal indications were, in the first place to do no harm and to avoid the debilitating influences of medical treatment, then to keep the patient alive as long as possible by inspiring him with a false confidence in placeboes. The system was totally insensible to the influence of mercury as sialagogue.

"However, leeches in moderate number, baths, sinapisms freely applied, anodynes, laxatives, and stimulants were found highly serviceable and were administered *pro re nata*. V.S. was inadmissible. Sudorifics and diuretics were of use.

"I have seen a patient recover from the following symptoms indicative of hepatic abscess, viz. heavy dull pain in hepatic region, an enormous swelling in the right hypochondriac and epigastric regions, green tongue, soft pulse, restless night, flax, &c. A few doses of calomel and blue pill as purgatives were administered, but without any hope or object in producing salivation.

"It appears that the total number admitted under the head of hepatitis was twenty, the same number under that of dysentery and one under that of pneumonia.

"The number or size of the abscesses, are sufficient to account for its fatality. I can easily fancy a man recovering from one moderate sized abscess, bursting internally or punctured. In those cases contracted in hospital, and in which the disease was early suspected, the treatment was as unsatisfactory as in serious cases admitted from Barracks.

The subjects of many of the above casualties were known to have been hard drinkers, but none of them, Dr. J. says, indulged to such excess as to have been subject to delirium tremens. "In several of the worst cases," he states, "the patient seriously declared, that he had never experienced pain in the side, nor did they even allude to any weight or uneasiness in that region. I strongly suspect the fact to have been, that their feelings of health and disease were completely marked by the operation of arrack, until the disease suddenly exploded, and they were admitted in a state of collapse."

21. Case illustrating the History, Symptoms, Pathology and mode of Treatment of Simple Ulceration of the Stomach. By LANGSTON PARKER, M.R.C.S. A remarkably stout man, a free liver, in the middle walks of life, began to suffer from uneasiness after taking his food at the age of eight and twenty years. He then suffered from weight, distension, and flatulence, with nausea after eating; he had also occasional vomiting. These attacks were relieved by medicines prescribed for him by the physician, under whose care he was at that time placed, but were prone to recur when the patient returned to his customary habits of living. When I first became acquainted with him, eight or ten years ago, he complained of fixed pain in the epigastric region, which was much increased by pressure and taking food; the pain was not at that time constant, it was most distressing after eating, and accompanied by much flatulence and distension. By restricting the patient to a milk and farinaceous diet, sponging the epigastric region frequently during the day with hot water, and exhibiting some mild carminative aperients daily for a short time, the symptoms subsided, and he again returned to his occupation in apparently good health.

After a time the pain again returned in a more violent and obstinate manner than before. It assumed the same character, was worse after eating, and accompanied by some tenderness and heat in the epigastrium. It did not now yield to the remedies which had before relieved him, but was much mitigated, and for some time entirely disappeared after the application of small relays of leeches, and continued counter-irritation over the epigastric and left hypochondriac regions.

My patient again returned to his accustomed occupations and mode of living, and after a lapse of eighteen months returned again with his pain as bad, if not worse than before. He was again relieved, I may say cured of his distressing

uneasiness, by the administration of small doses of the muriate of morphia, and a repetition and continuance of counter-irritation; observing, at the same time, a strict dietetic regimen.

In this manner, during the last ten years of his life, was this patient relieved or cured six or seven times of the painful affection of his stomach, which as constantly returned, when he resumed his customary habits of living upon mixed and stimulating food and drink.*

After having lost sight of him for some time, during which period his ailments were so slight as not to lead him to seek medical assistance, I was suddenly called to him during a violent attack of hæmatemesis, in which he vomited from two to three pounds of blood. I may here observe that, during the previous progress of disease, my patient had never vomited blood, or those black discharges which are peculiar to ulceration of the stomach. He had rarely pausea, and if he had an attack of vomiting, which did not take place more than two or three times during the whole progress of his disease, he vomited his food only. He was, however, occasionally subject to discharges of blood by stool, and at other times when this was not the case, his stools were black as pitch; these black discharges we shall afterwards speak of, but when they occur with such gastric symptoms as the present, and independent of any hæmorrhoidal or other disease of the rectum or anus, they are symptoms indicating very strongly the existence of ulceration of the stomach.

To the vomiting of blood succeeded great languor and depression, palpitations, hurried breathing, with attacks of severe pain in the stomach and bowels, which came on daily, sometimes twice or thrice in the twenty-four hours. The pain seized him suddenly, and left him with a discharge of wind. He had great tenderness and pain in the epigastrium and right hypochondrium; the skin had a pale, sallow, blanched appearance, whilst the tongue did not deviate in any appreciable manner from a perfectly natural condition; it had the same pale appearance as the skin; no coating, no redness, no development of the papillæ.

From this time to the period of his death varied plans of treatment were adopted, with a view of relieving the epigastric pain. The trisnitrate of bismuth with the ponderous carbonate of magnesia and the muriate of morphia certainly afforded very marked relief; amongst many remedies that were employed this was the most efficacious. Benefit was likewise derived from the carbonate of iron with rhubarb, and a sedative. Small blisters were also used, with a strong solution of the extract of belladonna applied warm on a piece of flannel and laid over the epigastrium. Suddenly and without any appreciable cause his breathing became embarrassed, cough came on, and terminated in the expectoration of muco-purulent matter to the extent of three half-pints daily.

Under the continued irritation of pain, and bronchial disease, my patient sank, three weeks after the attack of hæmatemesis, at the age of 53. I believe the immediate cause of his death to have been bronchitis. I am firmly convinced that from his stomach disease he would have recovered.—*Med. Chirurg. Rev.* October, 1838.

22. *On Simple Ulceration of the Stomach, with observations on those forms of gastric irritation which more commonly precede and accompany it.* The *Medico-Chirurg. Review* for October last, contains a very interesting memoir on this subject by LANGSTON PARKER, Esq. The general pathological character of this disease, Mr. Parker states to be that of a simple round, or oval ulcer, with edges

* This part of the history of the case confirms a remark which I have made in another part of this paper, and which I find confirmed by the experience of M. Cruveilhier, viz. that ulceration of the stomach, after having, by care and judicious treatment, been brought to a state of cicatrization, is exceedingly prone to recur from slight dietetic errors, or even from strong mental impressions. This physician has seen a case similar to the one I have recorded, in which the disease returned three times, at intervals of from two to four years.

generally thickened and elevated, in which the mucous and muscular coats of the stomach are more or less completely destroyed, and the bottom of the ulcer is formed by the peritoneal coat of the stomach; or, where the ulcers have healed by a membrane, the result of the process of cicatrization.

The anatomical characters of the disease consist in a round, oval, or irregular shaped ulcer, more or less deep, occupying various positions upon the internal surface of the stomach, more frequently however situated in the cardiac portion, the greater curvature, or, in the vicinity of the pylorus. The edges of these ulcerations invariably present considerable thickening, so that, in many instances, they appear, as it were, dug out into the substance of the thickened adjacent coats.

In ulcers of moderate size, the mucous and muscular coats of the stomach are commonly destroyed, and the bottom of the ulcer is formed by the peritoneal coat, sometimes very much thickened, a membranous cicatrix, or the base is rough, uneven, and fungous, and shows that the process of ulceration is still going on. M. Cruveilhier has, Mr. P. thinks, committed an error, in stating that these simple ulcers of the stomach are generally single. In a great number of instances, Mr. P. states they are not only double, but even multiple, and the use of a moderate glass, or even the naked eye, will show in many instances where a large ulcer seemingly exists alone, that the mucous membrane is covered with many small spots of ulceration which a superficial examination might pass over.

One great peculiarity of this species of ulcer is its tendency to cicatrize under proper medical treatment. In some instances the cicatrices of these ulcers precisely resemble those of a badly healed burn, and they have likewise the same tendency, if the ulcer be large and deep, and its edges very much elevated, to pucker up, and draw together the surrounding parts, so that the stomach is contracted and deformed, its peristaltic motion impeded or destroyed, and the process of digestion in this manner rendered laborious and painful.

All the cases of simple ulcer Mr. P. has had an opportunity of examining after death have presented concomitant marks of inflammation in other parts of the stomach; these have consisted in general increased vascularity of its mucous membrane—a punctiform or arborescent redness, general or partial—a congested and distended state of the veins of the submucous cellular coat, with general or partial thickening of the other tissues.

The terminations of ulceration of the stomach are four;—in three modes fatally, in one favourably. It may terminate in erosion and perforation of the stomach;—in one way by the continuance of the ulcerative process, and in another by the weight of the food pressing continually upon a thin cicatrix, or the centre of an ulcer occupying the greater curvature or cardiac portion of the stomach. Simple ulceration of the stomach may terminate secondly in a fatal hæmatemesis, the process of ulceration, by its continuance, opening a large venous or arterial trunk. It may in a third way become fatal, and wear out the patient by the constant and violent pain it occasions, destroying his digestive powers, impeding nutrition, and producing gradual emaciation, and death. Fourthly, the ulcer may cicatrize, and the patient become perfectly well, though even in this mode of termination there are two evils to dread—the recurrence of the disease from slight exciting causes, and the rupture of the cicatrix from the pressure of food, or from violent exertion.

The following is the general description of the symptoms of the disease as given by Mr. Parker:—The first of these symptoms is a fixed, acute pain, occupying the epigastric, or left hypochondriac regions, the centre of the sternum, or some point on the dorsal portion of the spine, between the scapulae. This pain is the symptom “*par excellence*,” it is that, and generally that only which attracts the patient’s attention; from it he may be for some hours occasionally free; but never is so entirely during the day. For many hours out of the twenty-four, this corroding uneasiness harasses the sufferer, sometimes in the morning, at others in the evening, sometimes in the intervals of meals, but generally it succeeds to them, and commences with more violence after the dia-

ner meal, continuing without abatement till late in the evening, when it commonly subsides, and leaves the patient comparatively easy for the night, till breakfast brings back a return of his sufferings. The seat of this pain is, as I have just stated, variable. I attended a gentleman for some years with simple ulceration of the stomach, who always suffered most severely in the centre of the dorsal portion of the spine, and along the course of the intercostal spaces; in this patient the epigastric pain was not absent, but in some measure masked by the greater suffering he experienced in the back and sides. These parts were very sensible to pressure, and he invariably experienced relief of the gastric uneasiness, from the application of small relays of leeches over the tender spot on the spine; this, during the latter months of disease was the only remedy that afforded any marked relief. This patient died ultimately from violent hæmatemesis.

In many other instances the pain is confined to the centre of the epigastrium, which is the chief, and indeed the only seat of suffering.

Although the act of taking food occasions the patient so much uneasiness, the appetite in many cases of ulceration of the stomach continues good, and in some instances is morbidly increased. The remark of patients labouring under this disease is commonly "I could eat any thing but dare not." In certain instances the appetite is defective. This I think arises most commonly from extensive concomitant inflammatory action, and where the ulceration is complicated with other lesions of the mucous membrane.

The tongue is in a great majority of instances clean; in some not the slightest deviation from the healthy condition can be detected; it is neither redder, nor less moist than usual, and even when ulceration of the stomach has been accompanied by profuse bloody vomiting, we observe the tongue to present that blanched condition which is common to other organs in this state, and not to offer that contrast to the external skin which is so remarkable in the advanced stages of pure chronic gastritis, where the vivid redness of the protruded tongue presents a striking contrast to the sallow, pallid countenance.

I have, in my work on the stomach, adduced a variety of facts, noticed by myself, and supported by the corroborative testimony of Louis, and Andral of the uncertainty of the state of the tongue as indicating any particular pathologic condition of the stomach. The tongue certainly bears no direct relation to the kind, or degree of disease existing in the stomach. Dr. Stokes has remarked that too much attention is, and has been paid to it, with this view, by British practitioners; whilst Louis says "we should examine the tongue for itself merely, not to ascertain by it what is the matter with the stomach." I have rarely met with a case of simple ulceration of the stomach, where constipation of the bowels has not been a prominent and most distressing symptom; and one which is a source of great anxiety both to the patient and his attendants. The attacks of pain are more violent and frequent whilst constipation is present, and again there is great difficulty in framing an aperient that will relieve constipation, without producing great pain during its operation.

Nausea is not a common attendant upon this disease, but sudden and sometimes fatal vomiting of blood, or a black fluid, comes on at an earlier or later period. M. Cruveilhier considers the black vomiting peculiar to, (and almost pathognomonic of,) ulcerations of the stomach, to result itself from blood, slowly secreted from an ulcerated surface, and rendered black by its sojourn for a longer or shorter space of time in the cavity of the stomach, and its mixture with the acids of the gastric juice.

Bloody vomiting, in ulceration of the stomach, is by far the most dangerous symptom we have to contend with. I have certainly seen a patient recover from ulceration of the stomach after several attacks of severe hæmatemesis; these cases, are, however, comparatively rare. Discharges of blood rarely occur early in the disease, and when they come on to any extent, a patient is worn out and emaciated by constant pain; they are very commonly fatal. I have more than once seen persons, with ulceration of the stomach, die in the very act of throwing up blood.

Before any vomiting of blood, or black fluid, takes place in ulceration of the stomach, it will very often be found that these matters are passed by stool. The blood is slowly exhaled, mixes with, and colours the food and fecal matter, and passes off in stools as black as pitch. This symptom, considered with others, will leave no doubt on the mind that blood is slowly oozing from an ulcerated surface; and it will lead to the adoption of measures to prevent the sudden vomiting of blood, which commonly succeeds to the black discharges by stool, of which these latter are, in many instances, premonitory symptoms.

The manual examination of the epigastric region contributes little to confirm our diagnosis in this disease. It is sometimes highly sensible to pressure, at others perfectly indolent. In the advanced stages of disease in the male, where the coats of the stomach are commonly thickened, a tumour may be detected, but, apart from the existence of other symptoms, we cannot say whether this tumour result from mere thickening, the result of chronic gastritis, or whether this thickening be accompanied by ulceration or cancer.

The general appearance of patients suffering from ulceration of the stomach, is haggard and anxious in the extreme. Defective nutrition has produced a paleness in their tissues which is very remarkable; the conjunctiva has sometimes the appearance of the whitest marble, and the whole aspect of the patient, in the advanced stages of disease, even when hæmatemesis has not taken place, is that of a person blanched by repeated hæmorrhages.

We must here inquire into the nature of those symptoms of gastric irritation which precede the actual state of ulceration, in other words, we must look for the causes of this disease; these, I believe, will be found in certain states of gastric irritation, which are very much under the control of medical treatment.

M. Cruveilhier says, "The history of the causes of simple ulcer of the stomach is involved in deep obscurity; or, rather, this disease recognises all the causes of gastritis for which it has been mistaken. But why is only one single spot of the stomach affected, whilst all the other parts of the stomach are in a healthy state?" It is singular so accurate a pathologist as M. Cruveilhier should have made a statement disproved even by many of his own cases, by the remarkable one detailed in this paper, and by the pathology of the stomach generally. The simple ulcer is met with as frequently double, triple, or multiple, as it is single; and I have never seen a case where this organ has not presented the most unequivocal signs of long continued inflammatory action, most frequently marked by general or partial thickening of its coats. Not only are the consequences of inflammation to be found in the stomach after death from ulceration, but the whole class of symptoms, which precede and accompany ulceration during life, are clearly dependent upon inflammation, as the results of inflammation sufficiently prove.

Ulceration of the stomach succeeds more particularly to two conditions of gastric irritation, which it is important here to notice; these are inflammatory indigestion, or certain forms of gastritis in males, and those affections of the stomach which occur in females whose menstruation is irregular, who are the subjects of hysteria, or who are confirmedly chlorotic. These forms of irritation are clearly of the inflammatory kind, though essentially modified by the state of the economy in which they occur.

I shall endeavour to give a brief account of such of these forms of gastric irritation which I have seen terminate in fatal ulceration of the stomach. The case detailed in the earlier part of this paper,* will illustrate in its history, the origin and progress of that form of indigestion which is evidently of an inflammatory character. The fresh attacks of this disease are generally marked by fulness after meals, distention of the stomach, eructations, heart-burn, nausea, pains in the back and sides, uneasiness in the epigastrium, terminating in fixed and constant pain, aggravated by taking food; strong beating of the heart, throbbing of the carotids, head-ache or stupor succeeding a meal.

It is true that in a vast number of instances the inflammatory forms of gastric

* See preceding article.

irritation never terminate in ulceration of the mucous membrane of the stomach, though I believe, from some experience in this class of diseases, that ulceration is a more frequent termination of them than is generally supposed. This opinion is likewise corroborated by the experience of M. Cruveilhier, who, in his second paper on this subject, states this disease to be much more frequent than he had at first supposed.

I have seen the inflammatory form of indigestion, which is a true partial gastritis, terminate in ulceration in five months, from its first commencement, in a patient who had never, previous to this period, suffered in the most remote degree from any affection of his stomach.

M. Cruveilhier believes in the existence of acute ulceration of the stomach, and adduces the case of a patient who died from the disease, twelve months after a slight attack of cholera, prior to which he had been in perfect health. He mentions a second case terminating fatally in ten days from perforation, the subject of it never having been ill before this period, the anatomical characters of the disease showing it to be a recent ulcer. A third case is mentioned succeeding to indigestion of some months standing, fatal by perforation.

The most insidious and alarming forms of irritation in the stomach, if we regard their occasional termination, are those painful affections, and disordered conditions of the digestive powers which occur in young females, particularly where there is any disorder in the functions of the uterus. It will be found on examination that most patients who are chlorotic suffer more or less from some form of irritation in the stomach or bowels.

Some complain of pain after food, nausea, daily vomiting, diarrhoea, loss of appetite with heat and tenderness in the epigastrium. Accompanying these symptoms there is commonly a dry, red tongue, and the patient suffers from a most distressing weakness.

Not unfrequently, in the midst of these symptoms, or after some partial degree of amendment, the patient is seized with acute pain in the bowels, and suddenly sinks and dies. On examination the stomach is found perforated in the centre from ulcer, with thickened and elevated edges, the immediate vicinity of which exhibits marks of inflammation and thickening of the coats of the stomach, whilst the remainder are generally very thin, and the mucous membrane in all other joints presents a remarkable pallor or whiteness, and is almost exsanguined;—a totally different condition from that observed in the mucous membrane of patients dying from that ulceration of the stomach which is the result of general inflammatory indigestion or pure chronic gastritis. In the former instance the disease is generally confined to a very small portion of the mucous membrane; it is a localised inflammatory action occurring in a constitution in an extreme degree of weakness or irritability, and seated in tissues so badly nourished that they present but little resistance to the fatal termination of the disease in perforation of the coats of the stomach.

I conceive the difference of the circumstances, under which the disease we are now considering occurs (in the male as the result of inflammatory indigestion, on the one hand, and in the chlorotic, or hysteric, or debilitated female already exhausted by uterine irritation, on the other,) to be one most powerful cause why the disease so much more frequently terminates in perforation in the latter than in the former.

I know of no instance where cicatrization of an ulcer of the stomach has been shown to have taken place in the female. In the male, the case of Professor Beclard will suggest itself to the minds of all, whilst the case now detailed is another and perhaps the most remarkable hitherto recorded. Cruveilhier states that the simple chronic ulcer has a tendency to cicatrize, and Dr. Abercrombie says that he is satisfied that he has seen the cicatrices of such ulcers when the patient has died of another disease, after having been for a considerable time free from uneasiness in the bowels. The latter authority however records nothing definite upon the subject.

I believe ulceration of the stomach to be more frequent in the male than in the female, whilst the fatal termination of this disease by perforation is much

more frequent on the part of the female than the male. Mr. Pritchard of Leamington, in a pamphlet on the organic character of hysteria, has collected from various authorities eighteen cases of perforating ulcer in the female, whilst he has only been able to meet with eight recorded ones of the same disease in the male.

It is true that the disease is more frequently verified after death in the female than in the male, but I think it will be found that the disease is more prone to cicatrization in the male from the circumstances I have mentioned, and again in the male its fatal terminations are more frequently by hæmatemesis, and gradual exhaustion, than by perforation, from the simple circumstance that the coats of the stomach generally, or those merely in the immediate vicinity of the ulcer are most commonly the seat of considerable thickening the consequence of long continued chronic inflammation. We do not observe the same causes in the female.

The *treatment* of ulceration of the stomach must be modified to suit the particular kind of affection we are called upon to manage, and hence it must be considerably different in the male, where the disease is the result of gastritis or inflammatory indigestion in any of its numerous forms, and in the female where it occurs in the midst of disorder of the health generally, and upon which, in such instances, I have no doubt it very materially depends.

I shall not here notice any plan of treatment adapted to the forms of inflammatory indigestion, having said enough on this subject in my previous work.

The grand indication in the treatment of ulceration of the stomach is to bring about cicatrization of the ulcer, and this I believe will be best accomplished in the following manner, at least it is the mode I have generally found most successful.

The patient must be limited to the smallest possible quantity of food under which he can be tolerably comfortable, but the wants of the stomach on this head must be satisfied, for if any degree of craving, or irritability be induced by the abstinence, it is carried too far. It must have been noticed by all that have had the care of patients with ulceration that they are tolerably easy except after a meal. They should never be suffered to take meals, properly so called; we should first attempt to discover what kind of food they are most easy under, and small quantities of this should then be taken every two hours, so as to prevent the appetite ever experiencing the sense of hunger, or ever feeling a desire to satisfy it by eating a tolerably hearty meal. It is almost impossible to lay down any rules as to the kind of food under which a patient with ulceration will be most comfortable; it very commonly happens that light animal food agrees better than a farinaceous diet, and I have occasionally found cold weak brandy and water in such instances the best sedative. The stomach must never be distended by food, nor any kind of food administered which so far disturbs the digestive powers, as to give rise to the evolution of much gas during digestion, which in itself, is nearly as great an evil as distending the stomach by food. The next point is the condition of the epigastrium, if there be tenderness on pressure, or heat in this situation, leeches must be applied in quantities suited to the powers of the patient till it is removed. Even in the advanced stages of disease, local bleeding from this is highly serviceable; it diminishes congestion, and renders the attacks of pain less frequent and violent. Employed after attacks of pain it relieves that venous distention occasioned by them, which frequently terminates in hæmatemesis. When the stools are black, or bloody, it is highly useful, frequently changing their character by diminishing the congestion or inflammation in the stomach, and checking the exhalation of blood from the ulcerated surface. Hæmatemesis frequently relieves all the symptoms of ulceration, sometimes for weeks; but we must recollect a patient may die, and commonly does die during the attack; these efforts of nature therefore should be imitated by the employment of means likely to bring about the same result. If the epigastrium be indolent, and the stools natural, or nearly so, the next remedy of importance is counter-irritation, by blisters, the antimonium tartarizatum, or other remedies; this should be persevered in constantly, and unceasingly

as long as disease remains. I do not think setons productive of much good. I have seen them useless where repeated blistering has afforded great relief. Fomentations laid on the epigastrium and kept on for several hours, sponging this region night and morning with very hot water, reposing in a tepid bath for a considerable time daily, are all remedies that may be employed with advantage. The patient is always worse during constipation; the bowels are best regulated by enemata. If aperients be given they should be of the very mildest character; a few grains of rhubarb with a tenth or twelfth of the muriate of morphia—the ponderous carbonate of magnesia prepared by Henry or Howard, administered in some infusion of orange-peel, or mint tea, are remedies sufficiently active; the common magnesia is worse than useless. After cicatrization has even taken place all active purgatives should be avoided. M. Cruveilhier records a case of rupture of a cicatrix from violent aperients administered to relieve an apoplexy. The violent peristaltic action of the stomach induced by the aperient had ruptured the cicatrix of an ulcer. Internal remedies are exhibited in ulceration of the stomach with several objects. To relieve pain, to facilitate cicatrization, to check the oozing of blood from an ulcerated surface, or lastly to remedy some general constitutional weakness or irritability which appears unfavourable to the healing of the ulcer.

To answer the two first indications minute doses of morphia may be administered with the trisnitrate of bismuth. The nitrate of silver, first proposed by Dr. James Johnson, will be found very serviceable with this view. The sulphate of iron also may be employed; there is sometimes a sponginess of texture in the mucous membrane in long continued cases of ulceration when these latter remedies are highly beneficial. There is occasionally also a great degree of debility, of languor, of laxity of tissue accompanying ulcer of the stomach, in which the exhibition of tonics becomes necessary, and in such forms of disease the carbonate of iron, or even the *mistura ferri comp.* are employed with great benefit. Every thing that affects the constitution generally has an effect upon the healing of the ulcer, and hence the condition of the health generally demands our strictest watchfulness; the functions of the skin; the state of the bowels; the urine; the epigastric region all demand unceasing attention. I would impress upon the reader that ulcers of the stomach commonly cicatrize, as the state of the general health under which they first made their appearance improves. It is true that they more immediately depend upon the pathological condition of the stomach, but this is most commonly the result of general constitutional causes.

The great difference which exists between the treatment of ulcer of the stomach in the female and in the male, depends chiefly upon the general condition of the economy in which the diseases separately occur, and the pathologic character thus induced in the stomach in which the disease is seated.—*Ibid.*

33. *Experiments on the application of narcotics in the form of vapour.*—By C. W. HUFELAND, of Berlin. These experiments were made with hyosciamus, belladonna and opium. The number of cases given is twelve, of which the first occurred in a servant girl 18 years of age, attacked with epilepsy, the result apparently of impeded menstruation. The first employment of the bath had the effect of inducing a paroxysm. The second was attended with more favourable effects; and the daily repetition of the remedy for two months, removed all disposition to the convulsive attack, and left the patient in a state of comparative comfort, interrupted only by occasional paroxysms of pain in the neck and breast.

The second case was also epilepsy, occurring in a young woman of 20, and which had commenced a year and a half before, in consequence of a fall in the water. After a period of apparent remission, the fits returned with increased violence; and from the 16th of July to the 1st of August, the number of attacks was not less than five. From this time the patient was subjected to the daily use of the narcotic vapour bath for 15 minutes, and at the end of 84 days from the commencement of this course, had had no attack of the complaint.

A merchant's clerk, 17 years of age, of feeble constitution, had been affected

with epilepsy one year, in conjunction with nervous fever. The narcotic vapour was tried upon him without advantage.

A young woman of 18 had difficult menstruation, followed by epilepsy and intermittent bronchitis. After several remedies had failed, the narcotic vapour was tried. Each trial brought on a new fit, and was followed by severe pain in abdomen. The remedy was abandoned.

A servant girl, 26 years old, was attacked with epilepsy, after chill and depression of mind. Having suffered under it for six months, she was for three months more subjected to ordinary treatment, but in vain. The narcotic vapour was then tried, but caused much inconvenience, and no benefit.

A servant girl, 20 years old, had been one year subject to epilepsy, the origin of the affection being unknown. After being subjected to other treatment, she was placed in the narcotic bath. The fits, which had recurred three or four times a month, were, after four weeks use of the remedy, suspended for 23 days.

A female servant, 19 years old, previously healthy and of plethoric constitution, was attacked with epilepsy after severe chill. The opiate bath was applied, and for two months she enjoyed an immunity from the disease.

A married woman, 29 years old, had had epilepsy for eight years, that is, since the period of her first labour, the disease was complicated with chorea, and the intellect greatly impaired. The use of the narcotic vapour produced violent paroxysms, and could not therefore be persevered in.

H. A., 16 years old, had suffered from epilepsy since his tenth year. The narcotic vapour was tried, but produced not the smallest effect.

A shoemaker's apprentice, 27 years old, had suffered much from abdominal affections, from which he was relieved by the performance of active military service from 1813 to 1815. A violent exertion brought on hemoptysis, which was followed by epilepsy. He entered the hospital the 17th of September, 1818. After various other remedies had failed, the narcotic vapour was tried. During fifty-two days from the commencement of its use there were two fits; the next thirty-eight days passed without any, and then a slight one followed.

A girl 18 years of age, who had never menstruated, had had epilepsy seven years, which was attributed to a fright. She became idiotic. Among various remedies, the narcotic vapour was tried, but without advantage.

A bookbinder's apprentice, 20 years old, well formed, reported, on his admission to the hospital, that he had an attack of epilepsy fourteen days previous after a chill. The attacks continued after his entrance with great severity. The employment of the bath suspended them for two months in the outset, and its persevering use cured the disease.—*Neue Auswahl kleiner medicinischer Schriften.*

94. *Heart diseases not seated in the heart.*—HUFELAND thinks that since attention has been directed to the diseases of the heart by Corvisart, Testa, Kreysig, and others, practitioners have been disposed to admit too readily the existence of organic disease of this organ. He thinks that in the great proportion of cases where the heart appears to be affected primarily, the disturbance is of a general character, and with its cessation, the anomalous symptoms exhibited by the heart cease also. The following are the sympathetic heart affections, which have come most frequently under his observation.

1. *Sanguineous congestion.* One of the most frequent causes of disturbance of the functions of the heart, is the tendency to hemorrhoidal congestion. In some cases the disturbance is occasioned by the interruption of the hemorrhoidal flux; in others, it is the effort of nature to bring about the discharge, by which the circulation is rendered more active. If then the force of the blood be thrown upon the lungs, asthma, hemoptysis or pneumonia may ensue; if on the heart, some undue action of this organ is developed, such as without careful attention to the etiology of the case, might be supposed to be idiopathic. In such cases the best cure of the heart disease, is to apply leeches to the anus, to use cooling diet, cold water in abundance, moderate exercise and laxatives.

A man 40 years of age, of tolerably robust constitution, who had had bleeding, and afterwards dry piles, and with whom both had recently disappeared, began

to exhibit symptoms of heart disease, which now, for a year, had reached a degree of intensity which excited suspicion of organic change: the more as his occupation required strong muscular exertion. His heart beat constantly with violence, his breath was obstructed; with every motion the difficulty increased, the pulse was irregular; he had attacks of vertigo, and was unable to lie upon his left side. After trying various remedies to little purpose, he came to Dr. Hufeland. Doctor H. recognised it as a case of obstructed hemorrhoids, directed leeches to the anus, mustard pediluvia and cathartics. Under this treatment the disease gradually yielded, and, at the end of four weeks, he was fully restored.

A man 50 years of age, of tolerably robust constitution, who had often suffered from affections of the liver, and from hemorrhoids, was seized with palpitation, which at length became constant, and attained such a degree of intensity that it impaired his respiration, caused vertigo and great anxiety, and was so oppressive in lying, as to deprive him of sleep for whole nights. At length the ribs of the left side were evidently protruded, so that no doubt seemed to remain of the actual enlargement of the organ. Blood letting, digitalis, and cold applications to the surface, afforded only partial relief. At length the plan was tried of leeches to the anus and aloetic purging, and under this treatment the patient recovered.

2. Nervous or adynamic heart disease. It is matter of familiar observation that palpitation, anxiety, irregular pulse, belong to the common signs of hypochondria and hysteria; and they may attain such a degree of severity and constancy as, by the inexperienced, to be readily mistaken for idiopathic and organic heart disease. If under this supposition they are treated with blood letting and reducing remedies, the intensity of the symptoms is inevitably aggravated. Every bleeding increases the palpitation and the anxiety, and this circumstance in connection with the pale urine, the tendency to melancholy, and the more or less periodical character of the attacks, must suffice to open the eyes of the judicious practitioner to the true nature of the affection.

3. Sympathy and antipathy with other organs have a marked influence on the functions of the heart. Especially may this influence be remarked as exerted by the abdominal organs. The ancients regarded the intermittent pulse as an abdominal pulse, no doubt having observed that it is symptomatic of affections below the diaphragm. Flatulence, by distending the abdomen and diminishing the capacity of the chest, is a frequent cause of disturbance of the functions of the lungs and heart.

Enlargement of the liver exerts an important influence on the functions of the heart. Brera regards it as the most frequent cause of heart diseases. Mental affections again have a most important and familiar influence on affections of this organ. Individuals have suffered for years with apparent disease of the heart, simply from being placed under the influence of strong mental excitement, the disappearance of which was followed by the complete relief of every preceding symptom.

4. Metastatic heart disease. The transfer of various inflammatory diseases, particularly rheumatism and gout, from their previous seats to the chest, and the production in this way of severe affections of the heart, has been matter of familiar observation, particularly with English and German practitioners. Dr. H. has seen numerous cases in which the patients were suddenly relieved from gout or rheumatism to be as suddenly the victims of affections of the heart. These affections rarely pass from a functional to assume an organic character. The functions of the organ continue to be disturbed for a greater or less period, but it is only in cases where these derangements are unusually protracted, that any serious affection of the organ follows.

A boy, 14 years of age, was attacked with severe palpitation, accompanied with dyspnoea and some protrusion of the ribs of the left side. On inquiry, it appeared that he had been affected severely two years before with scabies, which had disappeared under the use of external application. Sulphur, digitalis and calomel were now ordered internally, a blister was placed on the region of the

heart, a cataplasm of mezereon bark applied to the left arm, and thus a purulent discharge kept up from both surfaces. By these means a visible amendment was produced at the end of fourteen days, and, in six weeks, the cure was complete.

Thus far our author. It is scarcely necessary to add, that the improvements in the physical exploration of the chest, a subject which had excited little attention in Germany at the time this essay was written, have removed many of the sources of doubt and uncertainty which have heretofore existed, and made it far more easy to avoid the error of confounding functional with structural disease. Caution, however, is still needed, and the suggestions of Dr. H., if neither very novel or profound, will yet be acknowledged to be the result of careful observation, and to deserve for their honesty of purpose the respect of the profession.—*Ibid.*

SURGERY.

25. *Encysted Dropsy of the Thyroid Gland.*—Upwards of twenty years ago Professor Maunoir of Geneva described a disease bearing a great resemblance to bronchocele to which he gave the name of hydrocele of the neck; and he recommended for its cure the puncturing of the tumour, and after evacuating its contents, the insertion of a seton through it. Three cases are related in which these means of treatment were successful. (See this Journal for Feb. 1836 p. 507.)

In a paper on the treatment of hydrocele in St. Thomas's Hospital Reports, (Nov. 1835) Mr. Green extols the efficacy of the seton in the disease we are noticing. (See this Journal for Aug. 1836, p. 521.)

Dr. SELWYN of Cheltenham in a memoir in the *Lancet* (15 Dec. 1838) states that he has treated "at least a dozen cases with invariable success" by means of the seton.

Dr. Selwyn's claims to the discovery of the existence of such a disease as encysted dropsy of the thyroid gland and of originality in his method of treating it we need not discuss, after what we have already said. His testimony to the value of the seton as a means of cure is however worthy of being recorded.

26. *Division of the Prostate in Lithotomy.*—H. M. PHILLIPS, Esq. Assistant surgeon to the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, strenuously recommends the following modification of the above operation, as diminishing the risk of life usually attending the lateral operation of lithotomy; viz.—hemorrhage, puncture of the rectum, peritoneal inflammation, with purulent deposit about the neck of the bladder; and infiltration with its consequences.

"Having introduced a straight grooved staff into the bladder, and having reached the membranous portion of the urethra by the usual incisions on the left side of the perineum, I cut into the groove of the staff. The staff being still firmly held by an assistant, I introduce the nail of the fore finger of the left hand into the groove, then insert the point of the knife, also into the groove in advance of the finger, its flat surface resting on and parallel to the plane of the nail; both are then carried steadily onward until the knife enters the bladder, indicated by the gush of water; it is then withdrawn, and the finger alone is pushed firmly and fairly into the bladder. The forceps is then introduced upon the finger (the best director in all operations), and the stone is embraced.

"It will be seen that the principle acted upon here is the same as that which proved so successful in the hands of Cheselden, and was so warmly commended by Sir Astley Cooper; namely, the partial separation of the upper from the lower portion of the prostate gland with the knife, completing the separation to the necessary extent without a cutting instrument. Cheselden used for this purpose the blunt-curved gorget, I use the finger. And I do declare, having tried this method on the adult, I have found no difficulty whatever in enlarging the opening sufficiently, by simply protruding the finger into the bladder, which is accompanied with the sensation of a slight tearing.

"The advantages of this mode of operating are—the certainty of avoiding hæmorrhage, or of puncturing the rectum, and the equal certainty of being able to make the opening into the bladder large enough, to extract the stone, and no larger. I may add, that I never yet found any perineum too deep to prevent my enlarging the section of the prostate with the finger; and I am quite satisfied that any lithotomist who may adopt this method will not readily abandon it. —*London Med. Gaz.* 15 Dec. 1838.

27. *Fearn's case of Aneurism of the Innominata, treated by ligature of the Carotid and Sub-clavian arteries.*—The *Lancet*, of 15th Dec. 1838, contains the termination of this case, of which the early history was given in our Nos. for Feb. 1837, (p. 522) and Feb. 1839, (p. 498). The patient died after ten days illness, of pleuritis, Nov. 27th, 1838.

Mr. FEARN states, that the necropsy disclosed the following appearances: "The whole surface of the body was of an intense yellow colour, indicating at once the existence of jaundice: there was much subcutaneous fat. On opening the chest, the lungs did not collapse; this was owing, chiefly, to recent pleuritic adhesions on the right side, and to adhesions of longer standing on the left; the left lung was crepitant and healthy; the pleural membrane covering the middle lobe, and the lower and posterior surfaces of the upper lobe of the right lung, was larded over with recent lymph, and the membrane was also red and vascular; the corresponding portions of lung were solid, exuding a bloody fluid of a muco-purulent character, and presented an example of the red hepatisation. The lining membrane of the windpipe and larger bronchial tubes was healthy in appearance; there was no water in the pericardium or pleural cavities. The heart was very unusually fat for the age of the patient (30 years); its valves, both auriculo-ventricular and semilunar, were healthy; the inner surface of the whole of the arch of the aorta was studded with small cartilaginous and ossific patches. The innominata alone was the seat of the aneurismal disease; it presented a globular tumour, an inch and a half in diameter, pressing upon the front and right lateral portion of the trachea, about an inch above its bifurcation, so as to lessen its diameter about one-third; this tumour, with the exception of a channel of the usual calibre of the innominata, was completely filled with a dense, organized, light-coloured fibrinous coagulum. The coats of the diseased artery had given way on their external and posterior wall; the right common carotid was permeable for about a third of an inch from its origin, and opposite the lower margin of the cricoid cartilage there was an interruption to its continuity where the ligature had been applied in the first operation. The separated portions of the vessel, which were distant from each other the fourth of an inch, were connected merely by cellular membrane; the upper portion of the vessel was impermeable to where the external carotid was given off; the right side of the thyroid gland was much larger than the left, owing, probably, to its increased nutrition from the enlargement of the inferior thyroid artery, in carrying on the collateral circulation; the subclavian artery was healthy; the branches of the thyroid axis were considerably enlarged; the main trunk was severed just at the external margin of the anterior scalenus, in the same way as the carotid. In the abdomen we found the liver harder than usual, and of a lighter colour; the gall-bladder was very much distended with bile; the stomach and intestines healthy; the kidneys presented an example of Bright's disease; they had a mottled appearance, showed much fat when cut through, and the secreting portions of the organs were almost entirely absorbed, the tubuli extending to their surface. There were numerous extravasated spots of blood upon the lining membrane of the pelvis of each kidney; there was nothing else worthy of observation.

"If we take into review the whole of the circumstances of the interesting case which has thus terminated, we cannot but arrive at the conclusion, as I observed in my last communication upon it, that the steps which were adopted for the relief of the patient were the means of saving her from an otherwise inevitable death; and we may further affirm, taking into account the post-mortem

appearances above recorded, that the distal operation for aneurism of a vessel so near to the heart even as the innominate, is abundantly sufficient for its cure. It is quite true, that in this case a considerable tumour remained after the operation, but the previously existing sac was so completely blocked up with the dense coagulum which Nature had employed for the cure, that there was no longer any risk of death from its rupture. Had the patient escaped the casualty which led to her death, and lived but a few years longer, it is more than probable, looking to what occurs in aneurisms seated externally to the great cavities, where a ligature has been employed, that the tumour, in this instance, would have disappeared entirely. I saw a case, a few years back, of aneurism at the bend of the arm, produced by bleeding, which was treated by ligature of the brachial artery; the tumour, at the time of the operation, was as large as a man's fist; but though the progress of the disease was arrested by the operation, two years elapsed before the swelling was entirely dissipated. All this is owing, no doubt, to the imperfect state of organization of the mass of coagulum, and to the almost total absence of absorbent vessels.

"It may not be amiss to mention, that the patient lived two years and three months after the ligature of the carotid, and sixteen weeks and five days after the subclavian had been tied."

98. *On the cure of wry neck by dividing the sterno-cleido-mastoid muscle beneath the skin.*—By PROF. DIEFFENBACH of Berlin. The cure of wry neck, by dividing the sterno-cleido-mastoid muscle beneath the skin, is the ingenious invention of Dupuytren. Eight years ago I communicated some favourable results of my experience in this operation in "Rust's Surgical Cyclopædia," Vol. III., page 623, in the article *Caput Obstipum*, and since that period I have had many opportunities of repeating it, more especially since Stromeyer, by his admirable operation on club-feet, directed our attention to the division of other contracted tendons and muscles. The advantages of this mode of operation by a small punctured wound, consist in obtaining a quick and durable cure, and in avoiding an ugly cicatrix, which generally produces new contractions. The former method which, consisted in exposing the lower part of the contracted muscle, making an incision through the integuments and dividing the muscle on a director, requires a long after-treatment. In this case the cicatrix uniting the ends of the muscle adheres to the cicatrix of the skin, and an obliquity in a higher and much less curable degree takes place. In the old operation it sometimes happened that the pus found its way to the anterior mediastinum, or the whole cellular tissue of the neck sphacelated, and a relapse of the contraction, or death followed. The new operation of Dupuytren was at first received with enthusiasm, and everywhere adopted. It is remarkable, however, that in France it was nearly forgotten until very lately revived by Guérin, Bouvier, and Duval.

The instrument which I use in this operation is a very narrow falseform knife. The patient is placed in a chair; one assistant draws the head to the opposite side, and another depresses the shoulder of the affected side; by this means the muscle is rendered more prominent. I now pinch up the skin and muscle, with the thumb and index-finger of my left hand, and insert the knife, under the muscle, then turn the edge of the knife towards the muscle, until the point reaches the skin on the opposite side, which, however, is not pierced. While drawing out the knife, pressure by the thumb of the same hand is employed, and the muscle is divided. At the moment of the division a dull, soft, cracking noise is generally heard, produced by resonance of the thorax, and sometimes this noise is very loud. The best place to insert the knife is in the triangular space between both portions of the muscle, half an inch above their insertions. If operating on the left side I divide from this point the anterior portion, and then, in an opposite direction, the posterior one. At the right side I introduce the knife between the trachea and the anterior portion of the muscle, and after having divided the latter, I cut the posterior part if required. At the moment of drawing back the knife through the punctured wound I quickly press with the thumb upon the spot to prevent an extravasation of blood beneath the skin; I cover it

with a solid dossil of lint and straps of adhesive plaster, and then apply a bandage. Two neckhandkerchiefs serve to support the head in the former oblique direction, without straightening it. This is done partly to prevent a collection of blood, and partly to promote the union of the divided muscle. The patient is ordered to keep quiet, in a horizontal position in bed, and to take a mild antiphlogistic diet.

In most cases the wound heals very quickly. At the place of a divided muscle a swelling is commonly found; sometimes a fluctuation is felt, owing to a collection of blood. In the latter case the plasters are again applied more firmly, to accelerate the absorption, and this has soon the desired effect. Lukewarm lotions, and frictions with warm oil, are sufficient to cause the absorption of any tumefaction which may remain. If suppuration takes place, the pus should be evacuated by an incision and simple dressing applied. The following cases, however, will show how rarely this is met with.

In my first cases, and in those in which the vertebræ of the neck were very much displaced laterally, in consequence of the muscular contraction, I used to extend the neck gently some weeks after the operation upon the extending bed, or with Glisson's swing, in a sitting posture. More recently, however, I confined myself almost exclusively to a collar half the breadth of the neck, made of pasteboard enveloped in thick cloth, which forced the patient to bend the neck to the opposite side. I found the latter of more use than violent extension, which only inclines the muscle to react, makes it tender, and therefore must be removed, in consequence of which the head again inclines to the affected side.

I will now detail some cases in which the operation was performed with the best results:—

CASE 1.—Charles Meir, tailor, 24 years old, suffered from a shortening of the right sterno-cleido-mastoid muscle. From his thirteenth year he wore an iron instrument, but the obliquity of the neck increased, and he was obliged to leave it off. I divided both insertions of the muscle at separate times. I supported the bandage above-mentioned by a spica humeri. No extravasation of blood nor suppuration followed. The patient was confined ten days to bed, and I afterwards extended the neck gently for a time. The cure was completed in three weeks, and the patient's neck became perfectly straight.

CASE 2.—The son of the Councillor Dorn, five years old, was born with a shortening of the right sterno-cleido-mastoid muscle. Machines had been applied without any benefit. I divided both origins of the muscle. The hemorrhage from the wound was so profuse that the patient fainted. I used the same bandage; there was no extravasation of blood, no suppuration, and the cure was complete at the end of the third week.

CASE 3.—A relation of the above-named boy, living in the same family, eighteen years old and tall, was also afflicted with a considerable shortening of the right sterno-cleido-mastoid muscle, so that the head could only be moved from the right shoulder to the extent of half a hand's breadth. The division of both heads of the muscle occasioned a very loud cracking noise, partly arising from the strong extension, partly from the meagreness of the young man. Scarcely a drop of blood was shed; the wound healed in a few days, and in four weeks the young man was perfectly cured.

CASE 4.—A. Köpfer, of Frankfurt, six years old, afflicted with contraction of the right sterno-cleido-mastoid muscle, had been treated with machines two years without success. I divided the muscle. The wound healed in three days. Eight days after the operation the child was sent home perfectly straight.

CASE 5.—F. Striech, a stout boy, ten years old, had a strong contraction of the right sterno-cleido-mastoid muscle. The whole muscle projected like a hard, tendinous ligament, and the head was very oblique. The divided parts separated with a loud cracking noise. The wound closed in a few days, and the patient was cured by the use of a swing, and by a bandage round the neck.

CASE 6.—The Baroness de Schalten, eleven years old, afflicted with contraction of the right sterno-cleido-mastoid muscle, had for a long time tried gymnastics, but had not used a machine. I divided both portions of the muscle: the

lady was kept quiet during eight days; afterwards the ordinary bandage was applied, and she was perfectly straight at the end of the third week.

CASE 7.—F. P. Pietish, three years old, affected with shortening of the anterior portion only, was perfectly cured in five days. In this case it was not even necessary to employ a bandage.

CASE 8.—The daughter of a servant of Mrs. Scholz, five years old, was born with a strong contraction of the right sterno-cleido-mastoid muscle. The treatment did not differ from that already described, and the cure was perfect in the second week.

CASE 9.—C. Schmidt, five years old, suffered from a strong contraction of the sternal portion of the right sterno-mastoid muscle. He was discharged nine days after the operation perfectly cured.

CASE 10.—Mr. Eben, nephew of the private Councillor Bethe, at Berlin, was born with a shortening of the right sterno-cleido-mastoid muscle, and in his twenty-second year was much disfigured by a great degree of obliquity. I divided both portions of the muscle. The noise produced was so loud, that I was startled. In three weeks the cure was complete, and the young man perfectly straight.

CASE 11.—C. Sponholz, from Saxony, ten years old, was affected with a strong contraction of the right sterno-cleido-mastoid muscle, by which the head was closely approximated to the shoulder, and at the same time displaced towards the vertebral column. This boy was discharged perfectly cured, on the twelfth day after the operation.

CASE 12.—Augusta Lienig, fifteen years old, distorted, meagre, scrofulous, with a contraction of the right sterno-cleido-mastoid muscle like a fork. I divided them from one point. A fortnight afterwards the girl was perfectly straight.

CASE 13.—was that of a boy six years old, the son of a carpenter, with a contraction of the right sterno-cleido-mastoid muscle. The anterior portion only of the muscle was divided, and by this means the obliquity was removed. The bandage employed was the common one; the child was confined to bed during eight days; two days afterwards the cure was complete.

CASE 14.—Maria Schoenig, an amiable girl, eleven years old, affected with a congenital contraction of the right sterno-cleido-mastoideus, affecting, however, only the posterior portion of the muscle, was perfectly cured by division in twelve days. The dressing was the common one, and, as in the foregoing cases, no suppuration took place.

CASE 15.—Charles Von Schack, son of the Chamberlain Von Schack, of Mecklenburg, was born with a contraction of the right sterno-cleido-mastoideus. Every thing had been done to cure him, but in spite of treatment the muscle could not be extended. I divided both the contracted portions, a difficult task, on account of the liveliness of the child. Some days afterwards a fluctuation from extravasation of blood in the wound was perceived; a strong compression, however, produced absorption. The boy became quite straight, and left Berlin in six weeks after the operation.

CASE 16.—Miss Roeser, twenty-three years old, suffered under considerable obliquity of the neck, towards the right side. I divided both portions of the sterno-cleido-mastoideus, which separated with a cracking noise. The usual dressing was employed; a little extravasation took place, but was soon absorbed.

CASE 17.—The subject of this case was six years old; I divided the anterior and posterior portions of the right muscle; and a fortnight after the operation the head was perfectly straight.

CASE 18.—The boy Moll, four years old, affected with contraction of the right sterno-cleido-mastoideus, was discharged a fortnight after the operation, perfectly cured.

CASE 19.—Jeshlin, fourteen years old, was afflicted with torticollis in a great degree, so that the head almost touched the shoulder. The treatment, after the operation and simple dressing, was that usually adopted. On account of the

great degree of obliquity, it became necessary to turn the head to the opposite side soon after the operation. This gave rise to inflammation, and a large abscess formed. This was accompanied by fever, with nervous symptoms. The abscess was lanced, poultices were applied, and a simple treatment adopted, by which the fever subsided, and in six weeks the patient was perfectly well and straight.

CASE 20.—In a boy, aged eighteen months, from the country, affected with strong contraction of the right sterno-cleido-mastoideus, I divided the anterior portion of the muscle. A strip of adhesive plaster and a neckerchief were sufficient to effect a cure. This shows that in very young children even the paste-board is superfluous.

CASE 21.—C. Kiesling, six years old, affected with strong contraction of the left sterno-cleido-mastoideus, was discharged perfectly well four weeks after the operation.

CASE 22.—A boy, five years old, was born with considerable shortening of the right sterno-cleido-mastoideus; the division of both portions perfectly removed the complaint. A fortnight after the operation no farther after-treatment was necessary.

CASE 23.—The daughter of a merchant, nine years old, had been treated by machinery for a long time, for extreme contraction of the right sterno-cleido-mastoideus and distortion of the upper part of the spine. I divided both portions of the muscle, and, after having closed the wound, employed Glissou's swing. After four weeks the head was perfectly straight.

CASE 24.—The son of the apothecary Ehrhard, fourteen years old, suffered under the highest degree of contraction of the right sterno-cleido-mastoideus and distortion of the upper part of the vertebral column. I divided both portions of the muscle, but the obliquity was not entirely removed; and, even after the most careful treatment during seven months, I did not succeed in making the head quite straight. I shall operate again, as the muscle has become tense, especially at the posterior part.

CASE 25.—The son of Bückling, carpenter, six years old, affected with contraction of the right sterno-cleido-mastoideus, was perfectly cured in a fortnight, by dividing both portions of the muscle.

CASE 26.—Mr. Dohm, student of divinity, was so disfigured by contraction of the right sterno-cleido-mastoideus, that it would no doubt have prevented him from pursuing his professional duties. I divided both portions of the muscle; and the operation, after a few weeks, was perfectly successful.

CASE 27.—The son of Mr. Werkenthin, three years old, was affected with a contraction of the right sterno-cleido-mastoideus. In presence of the Councillor of State, Arndt, I divided both portions of the muscle, only a few days ago, and he will be cured in a short time.

CASE 28.—A young man, thirteen years old, apprenticed to a tailor, was perfectly cured, in a fortnight, by division of the anterior portion of the right muscle.

CASE 29.—Maria Wolgast, eleven years old, daughter of a smith, and a very intelligent child, was born with contraction of the left sterno-cleido-mastoideus. Machines had been used during several years, without any success. I divided both portions of the muscle, and the recovery was so quick, that on the ninth day the child might have been considered as perfectly straight.

CASE 30.—Maria Helacke, eight years old, was born with contraction of the left sterno-cleido-mastoid muscle. Her five sisters and brothers had all suffered under the same complaint; four of them died, and one brother was greatly disfigured by an extreme degree of the disease. The surgeon of the staff, Mr. Müller, divided the sternal portion of the muscle in the girl, and immediately after the operation the head became straight. The dressing and after treatment which was employed, did not differ from that already described. The cure was complete on the third week.

CASE 31.—I performed the operation on her brother Charles, twelve years of age, immediately afterwards, by dividing portions of the contracted muscle. This

case was one of extreme difficulty. The head almost touched the shoulder, and the contraction of the muscle was uncommonly strong. At the same time the cervical vertebræ were distorted laterally. After the operation a considerable effusion of blood ensued, and the fluid became decomposed. The abscess was opened by a small incision, after which the cure was soon completed.

CASE 32.—A boy, twelve years old, was afflicted with strong contraction of the right sterno-cleido-mastoideus, by which the head was drawn close to the shoulder. The vertebræ of the neck likewise deviated from their normal direction. Von Graefe had divided the muscle, but by laying it bare before the operation, according to the old and obsolete method. After the wound healed, a new contraction of the muscle ensued, and required another operation. This was done by the same surgeon likewise after the old method. He applied extension, but without success. According to the account which was given by the father, the duration of this long though unsuccessful treatment was three months. On being called in, I found the sterno-cleido-mastoideus strongly contracted, and very hard at the lower part, a circumstance produced by the cicatrices; on bending the head to the opposite side, the lower part of the muscle, where it had been divided, did not project, as it was bound down by indurated cellular tissue. It became most prominent in its middle part. Here I divided the muscle completely across, by inserting the knife at its posterior margin, then carrying it under the muscle, and drawing it back again without injuring the skin; no extension was employed. The patient was able to leave the room five days after the operation. No extravasation of blood or suppuration took place; the vertebræ of the neck remained a little oblique; this, however, gradually ceased.

CASE 33.—Charles Lehmann, nine years old, born with a contraction of the left sterno-cleido-mastoideus, and considerable distortion of the vertebræ of the neck. I divided both portions of the muscle. No accident followed, and the cure was complete in eight weeks.

CASE 34.—Maria Weber, aged eighteen months, was afflicted with contraction of the right sterno-cleido-mastoideus and curvature of the vertebræ of the neck. I divided both portions of the muscle, and the cure was complete in four weeks.

CASE 35.—Miss Epner, of Potsdam, thirteen years old, was born with contraction of the right sterno-cleido-mastoideus. She had been treated by machinery, but without success. I divided both portions of the muscle, and a perfect cure was obtained in a fortnight.

CASE 36.—Albert Wreske, of Brandenburg, was born with contraction of the left muscle. The consequence was a well-marked curvature of the vertebræ of the neck. The weakness of the young man had always presented an obstacle to all former treatment; a perfect cure was obtained in four weeks.

CASE 37.—Maria Zimmer, nine years old, affected with congenital contraction of the left sterno-cleido-mastoideus. I divided both portions of the muscle, and a perfect cure was the result.

Remarks.—Of thirty-seven cases operated upon none died, but all, with the exception of one, were perfectly cured. This one requires a second operation, which will be trifling. On one occasion only, severe hæmorrhage took place, but without any bad consequences; and in another the formation of pus rendered some precautions necessary.

In all the individuals submitted to my care I have observed some obliquity of the face; the side at which the musculus sterno-cleido-mastoideus was contracted, was always drawn downwards, and the other appeared somewhat higher; the eyelids, angle of the mouth, and the wings of the nose were drawn downwards. In young children, and where the disease is milder, the face often becomes straight in a few weeks after the operation. In adult persons, and in the more important forms of the disease, the bones of the head and of the face are implicated, and months, or perhaps years, are required to restore the natural appearance of the face. In those cases where the vertebral column is deviated, the restoration of the head to its upright position forces the spine to become straight, in order to preserve the equilibrium of the body.

Of the whole number of cases, contraction of the left muscle existed only five times. In all the others it existed on the right side. The reason of this could not be sought in the generally stronger development of the right side of the body, and in the greater use of the right arm, as the children were either born with contraction of the muscle, or the obliquity was observed in the tenderest age.

These cases show that the division of the muscle with the *preservation of the skin covering it*, deserves to be preferred to the old method, in which an extensive incision of the skin is made; even in one case it was successful after Baron Van Graefe had operated twice according to the latter method.

I am much indebted to Drs. Böhm, Berendt, Reich, Hothoff, and Mr. Hildebrandt, for their indefatigable care and skill in the after-treatment of these cases, by which alone these favourable results could be obtained, and in comparison to which the act of the operation itself is very unimportant.—*Lancet*, Sep. 22 and 29, 1838.

29. *Hydrocele*.—M. DUJAT in a memoir in the *Gazette Médicale de Paris*, for September last, gives the following interesting table of the cases of hydrocele, treated with iodine injections, at the Native Hospital of Calcutta, from the 1st of January, 1836, to the 5th of January, 1838. The table is compiled from the registers of the hospital, which were kindly furnished to him for the purpose, by Mr. J. R. Martin, the original proposer and advocate of this mode of treatment.

AGE.	Right Side. Quantity of liquid in tunica vaginalis.								Left Side. Quantity of liquid in tunica vaginalis.								Cases of Double Hydrocele.	Total number of Cases.
	Less than 10 ounces.	From 10 to 19 ounces.	From 20 to 29 ounces.	From 30 to 49 ounces.	From 50 to 79 ounces.	From 80 to 99 ounces.	From 100 to 120 ounces.	Total.	Less than 10 ounces.	From 10 to 19 ounces.	From 20 to 29 ounces.	From 30 to 49 ounces.	From 50 to 79 ounces.	From 80 to 99 ounces.	From 100 to 120 ounces.	Total.		
From 18 to 21	10	4	"	"	"	"	"	14	6	5	"	"	"	"	"	11	16	41
From 21 to 25	29	11	7	4	"	"	"	51	32	13	11	"	2	"	"	58	64	173
From 26 to 35	50	44	38	13	2	"	"	147	55	45	29	13	"	2	3	147	179	473
From 36 to 45	18	24	17	12	1	"	"	72	23	23	34	9	5	1	"	95	90	257
From 46 to 59	5	6	4	2	"	"	"	17	"	1	4	"	"	1	"	6	20	43
From 60 to 70	"	2	1	1	"	"	"	4	"	2	1	4	1	"	"	8	1	13
	112	91	67	32	3	"	"	305	116	89	79	26	8	4	3	325	370	1000

The injection recommended by Mr. Martin is composed of one part of the tincture of iodine (of Majendie) and three of water, and the quantity of this to be made use of varies with the size of the tumour. For hydroceles containing from 6 to 30 ounces of liquid, two drachms are sufficient; for those containing from 30 to 60 ounces of liquid, three drachms; and from four to five drachms are required for those of a larger size. When the hydrocele contains less than 3 ounces, one drachm of the injection is sufficient. It is the very small quantity of fluid injected, and the retention of it in the cavity of the tunica vaginalis, which characterises the method of Mr. Martin. See the Numbers of this Journal for Nov. 1837, p. 258, and Feb. 1838, p. 484.

30. *Dislocation of the Radius forwards.*—An example of this rare accident is recorded by Mr. COLEV, in the *Lancet*, (10th Nov., 1838). It occurred in a boy 10 years of age, and was caused by a fall from a horse. The elbow came, with great force, in contact with a stone on the road, which fractured the internal condyle of the humerus, and forced the upper head of the radius forwards over the outer condyle. The forearm was semi-flexed and the hand prone. The radius admitted of rotation, and its dislocated head could be seen in motion at the same time in its new situation: the forearm could neither be bent nor rendered straight beyond a certain point. There was a puckering of the integuments just above the dislocated head of the radius, and the fractured condyle was felt projecting below; so that, at first sight, the displacement appeared to be lateral.

The accident having occurred two days before I saw the patient, the parts adjoining the injury were swollen and inflamed. Extension, according to Sir Astley Cooper's directions, was tried without success. I then placed the arm over the back of a chair with the external condyle uppermost, and confining it in this situation by an assistant, I bent the forearm downwards, gently extending the hand at the same time, and thus readily replaced the head of the radius.

31. *Extirpation of the Tongue.* By M. REGNOLI, Professor of Clinical Surgery at Pisa.—A young girl, *ætat.* 14, of a scrofulous constitution and not regular, was admitted into the wards of M. Regnoli, April 29th, 1838, for a disease of the tongue. Upon examination, a tumour of the size of a hen's egg was observed on this organ, extending from its anterior third to its base, and filling up all the posterior part of the mouth and the throat. Its posterior limit could not be discovered. The external edge of the tongue was healthy for the breadth of two lines. The finger carried to the posterior part of the mouth showed the tumour to extend to the base of the tongue. The whole thickness of the tongue was comprised in the tumour. The surface of the tumour was granulated in several points and bled during mastication and after examinations with the finger. The blood spirted at times as from an artery. The mass was rather hard than otherwise, was wrinkled and not painful to the touch. Mastication, deglutition, speech and respiration were so difficult, that the patient was often threatened with suffocation. The intelligence of the patient being very limited and her speech difficult, it was impossible to learn much in regard to the history of the tumour, but it was ascertained that she had begun to speak with difficulty two years previously. Although it had been satisfactorily ascertained by the touch, that no liquid was contained in the tumour, yet M. Regnoli judged it proper to make an exploring puncture into it with a cataract needle: from this nothing but blood was discharged.

Operation.—On the 18th of May, the patient being seated and the head supported upon the breast of an assistant placed behind her, an incision was made in the direction of the median line extending from the symphysis of the chin to the os hyoides. Two other incisions departing from this were then made, one to the right and the other to the left, commencing at the upper extremity of the first incision and extending in the direction of the base of the lower jaw to the anterior edge of the masseter muscle, care being taken not to wound the facial artery. From these three incisions there resulted a wound of the form of the letter T and consequently two flaps. These two flaps comprising the skin, cellular tissue, and the platysma hyoid muscle were dissected back and the muscles beneath laid bare. The operator then plunged a straight bistoury from below upwards, behind the symphysis of the skin, dividing the attachments of the genio-hyoid and genio-glossus muscles, perforating the mucous membrane of the mouth and causing the point of it to appear behind the incisor teeth. A blunt pointed bistoury was then introduced into the same opening from below upwards, and the attachments of the digastric and mylo-hyoid muscles and of the buccal mucous membrane divided, first on the right, and afterwards on the left side as far as the anterior half arches. But three or four vessels required

ligature. The tongue was not forcibly retracted, an occurrence which the operator was prepared to meet. The floor of the mouth being largely opened by the incisions, the end of the tongue was seized with the forceps of Museux and drawn downwards through the opening on the anterior part of the neck. The tongue was then seized with the fingers and drawn out so as to expose the whole tumour. The base of the tumour was encircled with several ligatures in order to prevent hæmorrhage from the lingual arteries. To do this a long curved needle was passed in the muscular mass on the left resulting from the division of the mylo-hyoid, genio-hyoid muscles, &c. In this ligature *en masse* the lingual artery was comprised. A second ligature was passed at the posterior part of the tumour, including therein the substance of the tongue parallel to the os-hyoides. The right lingual artery was secured *en masse* in the same manner as that on the left side.

After having included in ligatures the whole circumference of the tumour, all the parts beyond were removed by repeated cuts with the scissors. At each cut but a few lines of tissue were divided, in order that any arteries which might spring, could be tied as soon as divided. No vessel, however, required the ligature, and the diseased mass was entirely removed without any difficulty. A small cautery was applied to the stump in order to arrest completely a slight oozing of blood from it, the ligature which had been passed parallel to the os-hyoides having become loose under the action of the scissors.

The stump was afterwards re-introduced into the cavity of the mouth. Not a drop of blood was thrown out into the glottis. The external wound was but partially closed, and the ends of the ligatures were left hanging out, in order that the discharge from the parts might be facilitated. The diseased mass included almost the whole of the tongue and the tumour. The latter was of a fungus nature, whitish and apparently scrofulous.

After the operation, small pieces of ice were directed to be held in the mouth. Violent reaction followed, for which she was bled. On the fourth day the dressings were changed: healthy suppuration. On the eighth day, union was beginning to take place. The 3d of July, the floor of the mouth was completely cicatrised: food and drink were swallowed as well as if the tongue existed. The hyoidean stump had considerably increased in size, and replaced in part the functions of the tongue. The speech had in a great measure returned, the patient speaking much better than before the operation, and she had regained her flesh and colour.—*Gazette Médicale de Paris*, December, 1838—from *Bullettino della Scienze Mediche di Bologna*.

32. *Case of Ileus in which Gastrotomy was performed.* By M. Monon, Surgeon to the Hôpital Cochin at Paris.—The patient was a woman *ætat*. 25, whose general health had been good till one year previous to her entrance into the hospital, though occasionally she had been afflicted with pain at the epigastrium and vomiting. She stated that about one year previously she had received a blow in the ileo-cæcal region. In the beginning of March, 1838, the pain left the epigastrium, and was felt towards the lower part of the right side; and was attended with colic and diarrhœa, but no vomiting. The third day after this attack, a large hard tumour appeared in the ileo-cæcal region. For two months the diarrhœa continued almost constant; and at the end of that time was succeeded by constipation and vomiting of a greenish transparent matter. Loss of flesh and diminution of strength followed, and on the 8th of May she entered the hospital.

Upon examination the tumour in the ileo-cæcal region was found to be three or four inches in length, and two or three in breadth, ovoid, hard, scarcely sensible on pressure, deeply seated and not moveable. Examination by the vagina and rectum made known nothing abnormal in these passages; but a hardness was thought to be felt through their parietes towards the right side of the pelvis.

The treatment, consisting in the application of leeches, emollients, enemas and purgatives was not followed by any benefit.

On the 23d her symptoms were all worse—the character of the matter vomited

was changed, and ultimately consisted entirely of fecal matter. A pill of croton oil was at last successful in producing stools, and was followed by prompt improvement—the vomiting ceasing, colic disappearing, and the tumour diminishing in size.

1st, 2d. and 3d. of June, constipation attended with severe pains; vomiting of bilious and stercoraceous matters again had place. Purgative enemias without benefit followed by a pill of croton oil gr. ij.

4th, symptoms continue—Ice is applied to the tumour, and is held in the mouth—croton oil repeated—enemas of ice water.

There being no amelioration of the symptoms on the 5th, M. Momod decided upon performing the operation of gastrotomy at the point of obstruction. An oblique incision from two and a half to three inches in length was made in the lower part of the right side of the abdomen, and the muscles carefully divided down to the peritoneum.

This membrane being divided, a loop of intestine presented itself having a band of longitudinal fibres, which caused it to be easily recognised as belonging to the large intestine. This was pushed back into the abdomen, and the fore finger carried deeply into the cavity made known a hard swelling behind and above the cœcum. Another loop of intestine was drawn out, which proved to be the small intestine, and was red and swollen, and did not offer any great sensibility. This was cut with scissors in the direction of its longitudinal fibres to the extent of about an inch and a half. Immediately a large quantity of fecal matter was discharged which occasioned considerable relief. The intestine was fixed to the edges of the cut by means of sutures, and the wound dressed with cerate and charpie. Death took place on the morning of the 7th. *Autopsy.* Peritoneum much inflamed with a quantity of sero-purulent liquid in its cavity. The incision in the ileum had been made from eight to nine inches above the cœcum. The seat of the obstruction was found to be at the superior and posterior part of the cœcum, at its junction with the ascending colon. When laid open the cœcum showed a contraction so considerable as to admit only of the passage of a female catheter. On a level with this stricture the cœcum was firmly adherent to the parts beneath, and was connected with a very hard, whitish, scirrhous mass of the size of a walnut.—*Archives Générales*, August, 1838.

[The rage for cutting is we know carried by some Parisian gentlemen to a sad height; and this will continue to be the case so long as operations of the most serious nature are performed in their public institutions without previous consultations. We cannot for a moment suppose that a consultation of the surgeons of any hospital in the city of Paris would have sanctioned the above operation. Even supposing that the diagnosis had been correct, and that the case had been one of simple uncomplicated ileus, still the operation would have been entirely unjustifiable.

In connection with the above, we lay before our readers the following statement which has been recently copied into several of our newspapers from their French contemporaries. As yet we have seen no mention made in their medical periodicals of any such decision as that spoken of, though as the statement has been furnished by the well known correspondent of the New York American, we have no doubt of its entire truth. Taking the foregoing case, extracted from one of their most respectable periodicals without a remark, as an example, we think the decision of the council came none too soon. Such an operation should meet with unqualified disapprobation, and no means should be left untried to prevent the performance of them.

“It having been observed that of late years the mortality among the patients upon whom operations have been performed in the hospitals of Paris has greatly increased; the members of the council decided that there should be formed a monthly report of all the operations performed in the hospitals, specifying the nature of the operation, the name of the surgeon who performed it, the number of deaths and cures, and other circumstances. The first report, which has recently been made, shows that some of the operators have lost two, and even three out of five of their patients. At the same time, it is proved that the mortality is less since the establishment of this report.” We can readily conceive of a mortality of

three out of five of those operated on, in a service in which gastrotomy is performed for the cure of scirrhus stricture of the intestine. G. W. N.]

33. *Desault's apparatus for fractured femur.*—Dr. DAVIDSON states that Desault's apparatus is generally employed in fractures of the thigh bone in the Glasgow Infirmary; and that as far as his experience goes, it is better calculated to preserve the bones in proper position, and to maintain the proper length of the limb, than the double inclined plane; but in cases where the fracture is complicated with extensive injury of the soft parts, or of the knee-joint, a relaxation of the muscles is of essential benefit in preventing irritation and subsequent inflammatory action.—*Edinburgh Med. & Surg. Journ.* Jan. 1838.

34. *Hydrocele treated by acupuncture.*—Dr. DAVIDSON reports the two following cases of hydrocele treated by him in the Glasgow Royal Infirmary by acupuncture.

"James Snedden, collier, aged 44, was admitted on the 14th of February, 1837. The right *tunica vaginalis* was considerably distended, tense, diaphanous, elastic, and afforded a feeling of fluctuation. He complained only of uneasiness of the loins, caused by the weight of the tumour when standing erect. The swelling commenced about eighteen months ago, but disappeared entirely and spontaneously, according to patient's account, about six months after. The re-accumulation of fluid commenced about a year ago, and the tumour has since then gradually increased in size. A common sewing needle, headed with a little sealing-wax, was introduced into the *tunica vaginalis*, and on withdrawing it, a drop of colourless fluid appeared at the orifice of the puncture. A small piece of plaster was applied over the puncture, and a discutient lotion afterwards to the scrotum.

"On the following day, viz: the 15th, the tumour was found diminished to one-half its former size, and the testicle was found enlarged and indurated. The integuments were flaccid, and had a doughy oedematous feel, from the infiltration of the fluid into the cellular texture. He felt no pain in the parts; and there was not the slightest trace of inflammatory action in the neighbourhood of the puncture.

"On the 16th of February acupuncture was repeated, on account of a re-accumulation of fluid, though the scrotum was still flaccid. On the 21st, the tumour had greatly diminished in size, and there was now no fluid in the lower part of the sac, but there was still some translucency at the upper part around the cord. The puncture was repeated, and the next day the scrotum was perfectly flaccid, and there was no translucency in any part of it.

"On the 1st of March, the tumour was again punctured on account of a re-accumulation, with the result of nearly emptying the sac; but the fluid again collected; and on the 6th March it was again punctured in the region of the cord, transparency and swelling being chiefly situate there. On this occasion, and also in several subsequent punctures, the needle was removed freely about against the internal surface of the *tunica vaginalis*.

"On the 19th, the swelling had diminished less rapidly than before, and there was still some fluctuation. The puncture was repeated. He was now put on calomel and opium, which affected his mouth in about eight days; and the punctures were repeated every four or five days until he left the Infirmary on the 6th of April; but very little change was effected in the swelling, which was now chiefly confined to the neighbourhood of the cord, and was still diaphanous. The enlargement of the testicle, however, diminished considerably after the operation of the calomel and opium.

"James Kelly, aged 31, piecer, admitted 15th March, 1837. The right *tunica vaginalis* was greatly distended with fluid, and was extremely tense and elastic. The swelling was diaphanous, and the testicle was seen, by transmitted light, to be somewhat larger than natural at the upper and posterior part. The hydrocele commenced originally about three years ago, and has been twice tapped within the last six months. The general health was good. In this case, acupuncture with a sewing-needle was performed four or five times, at the inter-

val of two or three days, with the effect of diminishing the size of the swelling, but there always remained in the sac a considerable portion of the fluid, and much more than in the case previously related. He left the hospital after having been there about a fortnight; but I understand that he returned in about six weeks, and that he was tapped and treated by the usual method, by injection, for the radical cure of hydrocele.

"This mode of attempting to cure hydrocele radically has excited some attention of late amongst surgeons, from its novelty and simplicity; and were it in general ultimately successful, it would be the most simple and at the same time the most extraordinary operation that is recorded in surgery. Even upon the supposition that it is only a palliative or substitute for the common plan of tapping with a trocar, the discoverer is entitled to much credit; for a puncture with a sewing-needle is attended with scarcely any pain, and the most timid of men would submit to it without apprehension. The results arising from the treatment of two cases are not enough for drawing any certain conclusion; but certainly they tend to establish this point, that no particular change is effected upon the internal coat of the *tunica vaginalis*, and that the fluid reaccumulates as after ordinary tapping with a trocar.

"In both the cases that have been detailed, the needle was introduced perpendicular to the surface of the tumour, and in almost every instance, the drop of clear fluid, which is reckoned characteristic of the acupuncture being properly performed, presented itself. In the first case, after having simply inserted the needle for a considerable number of times without any apparent effect in preventing a re-accumulation, it was in the future operations moved about, along the internal surface of the *tunica vaginalis*, with the intention of exciting some inflammatory action. This, however, had no better effect than the simple introduction of the needle.

"It may be stated that the cases above-mentioned were not well adapted for the plan, for in both the testicles were enlarged. This certainly is an objection to the success of the acupuncture, as well as to every other plan for a radical cure of hydrocele; but a little enlargement of this organ is a very common occurrence in this disease, and in the first case detailed the enlargement had almost completely subsided before he left the house. It appears to me that this operation is not likely to supersede the radical cure by injection, but that as a palliative it ought generally to be preferred to the use of the trocar; at the same time, I am of opinion that a frequent and long-continued use of the needle may in some cases effect a radical cure; and this view is supported by the fact, that after acupuncture has been repeated several times, the re-accumulation of fluid goes on less rapidly than after the first or second operation.—*Ed. Med. and Surg. Journ.* Jan. 1838.

35. *Dislocation of the Humerus, attended with a grating sensation on motion, leading to the supposition that the case was complicated with fracture.*—WM. LAWRENCE the distinguished Surgeon of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, in a recent clinical lecture, related the following case of this character.

"James Yarmsley, 40 years of age, was admitted into the hospital, on the 23d of March, 1838, for an accident to the shoulder, which had occurred on the 21st. A cart, in which he was riding was overturned; he was thrown violently to the ground, when the cart fell on him, and he remained under it for some time. The gentleman who first examined the limb, considered that there was a fracture, and therefore recommended that he should be sent from the country, where the accident happened, to the hospital. They who first examined the patient on his arrival entertained the opinion that there was fracture; and the case was accordingly mentioned to me as a dislocation of the shoulder with fracture. The dislocation was obvious enough, and it was soon ascertained that the humerus was not broken. A sensation like crepitus was perceived as distinctly as in a fracture, when the shoulder-joint was firmly grasped with one hand, and the arm moved with the other; also, when the upper end of the bone was raised by the hand passed under it in the axilla, the elbow being held by the other hand. The sen-

sation appeared to me more like the hitch or catch which might be produced by moving the articular head of the bone over an irregular hard surface, than the sharp grating of broken bones: the symptom, however, was so strongly marked as to lead to the opinion that the neck of the scapula was fractured. Never having seen a specimen of fractured neck of the scapula in any museum, and reflecting on the mode in which this portion of the bone is protected against external violence, I conclude that such an injury, if it ever happen at all, is extremely rare, and that it is the least likely to take place when the effect of the force has been spent in causing dislocation. As the existence of dislocation was unequivocal, while I doubted altogether respecting that of fracture, I deemed it advisable to make a cautious trial of extension, which I did on the 24th. When a moderate force had been applied, by two or three assistants pulling at the ends of a folded linen fastened above the elbow not more than five minutes, the bone went in, the mobility of the joint was restored, and there was no longer any crepitus or other indication of fracture.

"The head of the humerus, when dislocated, may lie upon the subscapularis, or between that muscle and the bone; or it may be placed in contact with the inferior costa of the scapula, near the glenoid cavity. In the two latter cases, the movement of the head over the bony surfaces, on which it rests, may impart a sensation closely resembling the crepitus of fracture. I remember a case of unreduced dislocation in this hospital, where the crepitus was so distinct that the injury was supposed to be fracture. The patient died: I do not recollect the details of the history, nor the cause of death. The head of the humerus was in contact with one of the ribs, the surface of which was bare."—*London Med. Gaz.* Nov. 17, 1838.

[A case of a similar character came under the care of the Editor of this Journal in the Wills Hospital in November last. The subject of it was a woman, from New Jersey, 60 years of age, short stature, robust, fleshy muscular system. Eight weeks previously she had fallen down stairs and dislocated her right shoulder. Attempts at reduction had been made by a surgeon residing in her neighbourhood, and subsequently by two surgeons of Bordentown, N. J. without success. On examining her for admission into the hospital, we found the head of the humerus thrown forward and upwards, under the acromion scapulae, and were immediately struck with a grating sensation when the bone was moved in certain directions, which at first led us to suspect that the dislocation was complicated with fracture. There was not however the sharp crepitus of fracture, but rather a sensation as if two bones covered with cartilage were rubbed together. The most careful examination failed to reveal any evidence of fracture, and we felt satisfied that the grating resulted from the rubbing the head of the humerus against the scapula or first rib.

The patient was suffering no pain from the position of the humerus, had considerable motion of the limb, and was able to use her hand in sewing, knitting, &c. She was desirous, however, of regaining the perfect use of her arm; and it was determined, in consultation with my colleagues, Dr. G. Fox, S. Littell, I. Parrish, and also of Dr. J. Parrish and J. R. Barton, to make such efforts for the reduction of the dislocation, as prudence justified. These attempts failed; and we recommended the patient to be satisfied with her present condition, and not submit to extreme violence which might produce rupture of the artery and a fatal result. She went home determined to abide by this recommendation.]

36. *Malignant Ulcer under the left ear cured by chloride of zinc.* By Wm. Davison, M. D.—Neil Boyd, aged 40, servant, was admitted into the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, September 13, 1836. Under the left ear was situated an ulcer about half an inch in diameter, and extending from angle of jaw to lobule of ear, the under surface of which was involved in the ulcerative process. The ulcer was slightly excavated, presenting a dry grayish-colored warty bottom, from which there was occasionally a slight bloody exudation. Its margins were thickened, callous, and everted, the integuments being painful on pressure, and of a dusky-red colour. The ulcer first appeared

above six years ago in the form of a small red *papula*, which was attended with a lancinating pain. He complained of a dull uneasy sensation in seat of ulcer, but the pain was never very acute. No enlargement of submaxillary glands. On the 13th of September, chloride of zinc, uncombined with flour or gypsum, was applied to the ulcer, and it has produced to-day (14th) a very thick slough, which is firmly adherent.

"September 16th. The slough is detached; the surface of ulcer has a more healthy aspect, and is covered with purulent secretion. The chloride of zinc was repeated every three or four days, according as the slough was sooner or later detached, and was used six or seven times altogether. After the ulcer had assumed a healthy character, simple dressing, and the occasional light application of the nitrate of silver were employed, and he was discharged on the 6th of November, the ulcer being completely cicatrized. The chloride of zinc in this case was not combined with any other substance, as is recommended by some writers; but was simply applied to the ulcer, and allowed to deliquesce on its surface, using the precaution of preventing any of the fluid formed coming into contact with the neighbouring parts. Poultices were used during the whole time that this caustic was employed. The chloride of zinc seems also to answer well in removing warty excrescences, and I used it lately in a private case for removing a malignant looking excrescence, situate at the junction of the *ala* of the nose and the cheek, about the size of a gooseberry, and partially ulcerated. It had existed for seven years, was gradually increasing in size, and was the seat of occasional lancinating pain. The chloride of zinc was applied three times, at the interval of four days, and after the last slough was thrown off, there remained a pretty deep excavation, but which was speedily filled with healthy granulations, and soon cicatrized completely, leaving no suspicious trace of the former disease.

The chloride of zinc, however, seems only to be superior to many other caustics, in cases when the destruction of a considerable thickness of texture is required, or where the removal of an excrescence by a caustic is preferred by the patient to the knife; for the nitrate of silver, as shall be noticed under the article ulcers, seems to be superior in promoting a sound action, when the unhealthy stratum of the ulcer is superficial.—*Ed. Med. and Surg. Journ.*, January, 1838.

37. *Treatment and Causes of Erysipelas*.—In the Report of Surgical cases treated in the Glasgow Royal Infirmary during the years 1836-7, by WM. DAVIDSON, M. D., we find the following interesting observations on Erysipelas, which prevailed epidemically in the wards during the period mentioned.

In the general treatment of Erysipelas, Dr. Davidson states, that "the antiphlogistic plan was only employed in a few cases in the commencement of the disease; for it was found that symptoms of debility in general appeared pretty early, more especially if diarrhoea was a concomitant, which was not unfrequent. The tonic plan was, therefore, found the most successful, and it consisted of wine, sulphate of quinine, light nourishing diet suited to the state of the digestive organs, laxatives or laxative enemata, and occasionally opiates at bed-time. The external treatment consisted of leeches, punctures, incisions, mercurial ointment, nitrate of silver applied in the form of a weak solution to the whole erysipelatous surfaces, or applied in the solid state in the form of a circle, with the intention of insulating the disease.

"Leeches and punctures were not found so beneficial as incisions; and the latter were generally practised, and made in various parts of the region affected, to the extent of from one inch and a half to two inches and a half in length, through the skin and cellular texture. In the slighter cases, where the disease appeared to be superficial, mercurial ointment, and a solution of nitrate of silver, consisting of ten grains to an ounce of water, were applied; but the latter was found the most efficacious of the two; and generally, on the day following its application, the swelling and redness were much diminished.

"The solid nitrate of silver succeeded in the great majority of cases, in preventing the spreading of erysipelas; and the following points require to be attended

to, in order to insure success. 1st. It must be applied to a sound part of the integuments, viz. a part where there is no swelling or redness; but as near as possible, so as to avoid this. 2d. The inflamed surface must be completely encircled by the caustic line. This may be effected in the following way. Take a pretty large hair-brush and moisten thoroughly with water the part that has been selected to the breadth of about an inch; then rub a cylinder of lunar caustic very freely over this moistened portion of the skin. Distinct vesication over the whole surface to which the caustic has been applied should be produced; for if this does not follow, the disease may extend beyond the line. And this is perhaps the reason why a saturated solution (consisting of equal parts of the salt and water) is not so certain as the solid caustic; for erysipelas seems to extend its boundaries by creeping along the cutaneous surface, before it affects the cellular tissue; hence, if its progress over the integuments can be checked its extension in the textures below will at the same time be prevented. In general, after the caustic has been thus applied, the inflamed integuments in the immediate vicinity of it become partially shrunk and puckered; but the state of the previously affected parts appears to be uninfluenced by it, and they proceed to resolution or suppuration, according to the nature of the case. Many cases could be quoted from the journals of the house, besides those already noticed, where this practice was adopted, in proof of the general efficacy of this mode of insulating erysipelatous inflammation; but their introduction would render this report too long.*

"A question of much practical importance relates to the causes of erysipelas, in as much as the prevention of the disease, and the separation of those affected with it from other patients, depend partly upon the opinions formed respecting this subject. I shall not attempt to discuss the contagious or non-contagious nature of the disease; or whether it can be generated by overcrowding a ward, and by want of cleanliness and ventilation; but simply state that, on two or three occasions, almost the whole patients of a particular ward have been affected with the disease in rapid succession; the first case, being generally a solitary instance, either occurring in the house, or brought to it when laboring under the disease. It has been further found, that, for several years back, the disease has only prevailed, to an epidemic extent, in two particular wards, both situate at the top of the house, and consequently better ventilated than those situate below them. These two wards were cleaned out, ventilated, fumigated and heated with very considerable care; and notwithstanding, the disease, in a short time afterwards, reappeared. Overcrowding was not the cause, when on this occasion the disease first returned; though at some other periods the wards were very full, owing to the numerous important cases that presented themselves for admission. Whether it be possible that the disease may be spread in consequence of the promiscuous use of sponges, towels, &c. I am not prepared to give any positive opinion; but certainly, as long as there is any doubt respecting this point, precautionary measures for preventing this should undoubtedly be adopted.

"The conclusions, therefore, which may be drawn from these statements, are

"1st. That there should be a ward, in every large hospital, exclusively set apart for erysipelatous cases; and the reasons for adopting this plan are at least equally strong, as for the separation of fever from other cases.

"2d. That every erysipelatous case should on admission be sent to this particular ward.

"3d. That all cases occurring in the hospital, where removal would not be injurious, should be sent to this erysipelatous ward as soon as the disease is discovered."—*Ibid.*

* It should be remembered that the late Dr. Physick employed blisters with the same view, that the nitrate of silver has been used by Dr. Davidson. The *modus operandi* of the two remedies is the same.—*Editor.*

OPHTHALMOLOGY.

38. *Glaucoma*.—The appearances in this disease are usually considered as resulting from some change in the vitreous humor (or hyaloid membrane), the retina, or choroid. The investigations of Dr. WM. MACKENZIE of Glasgow, lead him to believe that these forms of glaucoma are very rare and that by far the most common seat of the disease is the lens. He is inclined to think that there is never any very distinct glaucomatous appearance (that is to say, cloudiness of a greenish hue), except what is caused by the amber or reddish-brown color of the central and posterior laminae of the lens. In lenticular glaucoma, the lens has become, in a certain sense, dichromatic, being of a deep amber when allowed to transmit the light, but appearing green by reflected light; the green hue being probably the result of the absorption of the extreme prismatic rays of the light entering the eye, while the middle prismatic rays are but little affected.

All who begin to examine diseased eyes, find considerable difficulty in distinguishing lenticular glaucoma from lenticular cataract; but a little experience generally serves to make them acquainted, more accurately than any verbal description can, with the diagnostic appearances of these two diseases. No mere cataract is green; the cloudiness in glaucoma is considerably remote from the pupil; and though sometimes the cloudiness is limited and surrounded by a lucid ring, while in other cases it extends almost across the breadth of the lens, yet it is always evident that the superficial laminae of the lens are transparent in simple lenticular glaucoma. The greenish cloudy surface is always uniform, smooth, and as if polished, never streaked, spotted, or apparently rough, as is generally the case in lenticular cataract. The shadow thrown by the iris on the greenish cloudy surface is much broader than the shadow thrown upon a lenticular cataract.

"The reddish-brown color," Dr. Mackenzie observes, "upon which lenticular glaucoma depends, affects only the internal and posterior laminae, and fades away into an amber hue towards the surfaces, and especially the anterior surface and circumference of the lens. These, so long as the disease is one of simple lenticular glaucoma, have lost comparatively little of their natural transparency, but the reddish-brown part often presents, on making a section of the extracted lens, a peculiar dryness of substance, as well as a considerable degree of opacity.

"After lenticular glaucoma has existed for a time, the surfaces of the lens may become coagulated and opaque, so as to constitute a complication of glaucoma with cataract. This sometimes occurs very suddenly.

Dr. Mackenzie has tested these views by an examination of the eye catoptrically according to the method of M. Sanson as detailed in a former No. of this Journal. (August 1838 p. 494.) The following are the results of his observations. The conditions under which they succeed best are, that the pupil be previously dilated by belladonna; the observer and patient placed in moderate daylight; the back of the patient turned towards the window; the patient seated so that the observer looks rather down into the eye than upwards; and a candle used which burns steadily, and does not blaze much.

"On reading over the following particulars to Dr. Staberoch, he was kind enough," says Dr. M., "to favour me with a few annotations, which I consider too valuable to be lost, and which I therefore subjoin under their respective heads:—

"1. In incipient lenticular glaucoma, or what we may call the first degree of that disease, both the deep erect image, and the inverted one, are distinct.

"[While its outline remains pretty sharp, the deep erect image is rather larger in size, and brighter than in the healthy eye. It is also somewhat of a yellowish hue. With the increase of glaucoma the inverted image becomes larger, and more of a yellowish color; its outline becomes sooner diffused than that of the deep erect image.

"In estimating the changes which are observed to occur in the appearances of the images reflected from the eye in its several diseased states, it is necessary to take into account two sources of these changes, viz. the state of the surfaces

which form the images, and that of the media through which we see them. Each of these causes must have an effect, more or less remarkable, in different cases of disease.—J. S.]

"2. In mean cases, or what we may call the second degree of glaucoma, the inverted image is pretty distinct, when formed near the circumferential part of the crystalline; that is to say, if the candle be moved by the observer towards the right side of the patient, while the right eye is the subject of examination, the inverted image will be seen behind the nasal end of the pupil. If the observer now brings the candle slowly in front of the eye, the inverted image, as it moves across the pupil, is seen to become less and less distinct, and in some cases is altogether extinguished; but as the candle approaches the patient's left side, it reappears behind the temporal edge of the pupil, being again formed by the circumferential portion of the posterior capsule. No such appearance as this is seen in lenticular cataract, a disease which always affects the superficial laminae of the lens in such a way as to prevent the formation of the inverted image by any part of the posterior surface of the crystalline body. The extinction of the inverted image, when the candle is placed directly before the pupil, is evidently owing to loss of transparency in that portion of the lens, which, in lenticular glaucoma, suffers a peculiar degeneration, characterized by dryness of substance and a reddish-brown color.

"[In moderately developed glaucoma, both images of the candle are represented by yellowish spots, or blazes, of a pretty bright appearance, following the motions of the candle in their corresponding directions.—J. S.]

"3. In complete lenticular glaucoma, or glaucoma of the third degree, the inverted image is no longer visible even at the edge of the lens.

"4. The deep erect image is better seen in the second and third degrees of glaucoma than in the healthy eye. It is large and evident, but its outline is not sharp; so that it often appears like a diffused blaze. It is best seen when the eye is looked at downwards, and from one side. The fact that it is more distinct than in the healthy eye, is to be attributed to the reddish-brown part of the lens serving as a foil to the image.

"[In the far-advanced stage of glaucoma, both images disappear entirely: but I am not sure whether, in this case, there is no complication with cataract commencing.—J. S.]

"5. In lenticular cataract, no inverted image is visible; while, from the anterior capsule, there is merely a general reflection, but no distinct image.

"[In incipient lenticular cataract, the inverted image becomes indistinct, and its outline as if washed off. It is changed neither in color nor in size. It is extinguished long before the cataract is fully developed. In capsulo-lenticular cataract, the inverted image fades much sooner than in mere lenticular cataract, and even when the capsule, or the peripheric substance of the lens, seems to be alone opaque, the image disappears much sooner than we should expect, from the apparently moderate degree of opacity.—[J. S.]

"6. If the crystalline lens have been removed by operation, neither the inverted nor the deep erect image is visible.

"The catoptrical examination of the eye confirms, in the most satisfactory manner, the doctrine that glaucoma is, in general, an affection of the crystalline lens. Concerning this disease, Rufus and Galen were right seventeen hundred years ago; distinguishing by the name of *γλαυκώματα* those internal opacities which they found to be incurable, while on the more favorable, they bestowed the name of *ὑπὸ χρώματι*. The former they believed to depend on a change of color and consistence in the crystalline lens, an opinion from which the moderns have erroneously departed; while they attributed the latter to the accumulation of a new substance suffused between the iris and the crystalline—a notion which the moderns have successfully corrected.

"Lenticular glaucoma may be considered as a nebula of the lens, while cataract may be compared to an albugo, or leucoma. Glaucoma, however, is in the centre, cataract is on the surface of the crystalline; and while the former is rare—

ly, the latter is generally unattended with amaurosis."—*London Med. Gaz.* April 1838.

39. *Use of the essential Oil of Turpentine in Diseases of the Eye.*—Dr. A. TRINCRINETTI's experience induces him to place great confidence in the oil of turpentine in the slow and deep-seated inflammations of the eye, especially in those that do not yield to antiphlogistic measures. Cases are given proving its utility in chronic inflammation of the iris or ciliary bodies, and in incipient gangrene of the cornea, all of these following the operation for cataract; in the chronic stage of rheumatic iritis, or even in the outset, if it be mild; in traumatic iritis, ulcers of the cornea, onyx and incipient glaucoma. The oil should be administered in emulsion, the dose varying from half a drachm to four drachms daily.* The phenomena generally following its use are diminution or cessation of pain, a sense of general comfort, contraction of the vessels with gradual disappearance of the inflammatory fullness and lachrymation; the early dispersion of the matter effused into the anterior chamber or between the lamellæ of the cornea. Occasionally a sensation of weight and burning in the stomach, especially after full doses, was felt, and in some rare cases was sufficiently troublesome to prevent the further administration of the drug. Instead of producing a purgative effect, it caused constipation; the urine became abundant, of violet odour, was passed without pain and deposited a reddish sediment.—*Brit. and For. Med. Rev.* Oct. 1833, from *Giornale delle Scienze Med.-Chirurg.* Aug. 1836.

40. *Hereditary Hemeralopia.*—A very remarkable example of hemeralopia, hereditary for two centuries, is quoted by M. FLORENT CUNIER, in a memoir read before the Medical Society of Gand. The first of this race of hemeralopics was a butcher named Jean Nougaret, of the commune of Vendémian, born about 1637. The six following generations have all been affected, though in different proportions. The disease affects the descendants of Nougaret from birth, and whether they remain at Vendémian or reside elsewhere.

The following table gives a synoptical view of this remarkable instance of hereditary disease.

1st generation of	3 children	3 hemeralopia,
2d "	16 "	10 "
3d "	61 "	14 "
4th "	308 "	23 "
5th "	318 "	24 "
6th commencing,	123 "	11 "

Thus, of 649 children, 85 have been hemeralopic. The proportion of those affected with the disease to the whole number of births is decreasing.—*Bull. Med. Belge.* Dec. 1837.

MIDWIFERY.

41. *On the Position of the Placenta in the womb during pregnancy, and on the manner the latter organ expands therein, as also of its subsequent contractions in the process of Parturition.*—There are some interesting and curious observations on this subject in the *Dublin Journal of Medical Sciences* for January last, by HUGH CARMICHAEL, Esq., one of the Surgeons of Coombe Lying-in Hospital, Dublin. This accoucheur is of opinion that the placenta does not usually occupy the fundus of the womb during gestation, but that its true position is at the posterior part of this organ, probably the lower down the further the gestation is advanced. He of course admits that the placenta is originally attached to the fundus of the uterus or near to this part, but he conceives that its change

* The best formula for its exhibition is that proposed by Mr. Carmichael in 1829.

of position results from the manner in which the womb, as he imagines, expands. Thus, he says, that the fundus together with the parts posterior to it, undergo little or no alteration or change of surface during gestation, beyond what is sufficient to accommodate the increase of the placenta, and that the expansion principally goes on at the anterior part. The womb, however, he adds, increases chiefly in its altitude, the supply of which must, therefore, come principally from the anterior wall; now the effect of this must be, that while the posterior part, and so much of the fundus as is occupied by the placenta, remains stationary, except to the extent first mentioned, that the posterior portion expands and rises up, each superior part of it arriving at and occupying the fundus, and then turning over to form a portion of the posterior parietes, until the expansion has gone to the extent required. According to this theory, the placenta is turned over to the back of the womb by the first act of expansion, where it continues uninterrupted throughout the remainder of pregnancy, amid all the activity of the organ upon which it is implanted.

Mr. C. views the grades of uterine contraction as the converse of those of expansion. Thus when labour sets in, the contractions are conducted on the anterior part of the womb, the thin fundus likewise participating in them; by the parts endeavouring to regain their natural position, this latter descends; the cavity of the uterus is thus lessened, while that part upon which the placenta is attached, is preserved not only in a perfect state of quiet, but in a condition whereby the circulation so important to the success of the process is rather facilitated than impeded; at length, by this means, the child is expelled, and by that time the placenta arrives at the fundus; it is now no longer required, it is useless, is then submitted to the effect of these contractions, is detached, and thrown off from the system.

The occurrence of hemorrhage in labour, Mr. C. thinks may result from partial malposition of the placenta, for if this organ be situated above its normal position, it will come within the range of the early contractions of the womb, and be thus partially detached.

42. Unconscious Delivery.—The following very curious case is related by ROBERT HALL, Esq. A young villager, about five months pregnant, staid out of doors during the whole night at a fair. She was speedily attacked with perfect paraplegia, and was utterly unconscious of the hand examining the womb per vaginam—yet she went her full period, and Mr. H. was informed by the parochial surgeon, Mr. Bond, that she gave birth, unassisted and easily, to a developed and living child, herself unconscious of its transit into the world. She died of her disorder some short time after.—*London Med. Gaz.* 10th Nov. 1838.

MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE AND TOXICOLOGY.

34. Poisoning with Arsenious Acid successfully treated by the Hydrated Peroxide of Iron.—A sufficient number of cases of poisoning by arsenious acid in the human subject, relieved by the administration of the hydrated peroxide of iron, have now been recorded to inspire confidence in the antidotal powers of this article against the poison just named. A case recently communicated to the Medical Society of Paris by Dr. Deville, is worthy of a brief notice, as the antidote proved effectual, though not given until five hours and a half after the poison had been taken. A young lady, disappointed in love, resolved on suicide. She took a packet of arsenic containing two drachms, put it into a silver tankard, poured over it about two ounces of water and drank the fluid contents of the goblet. This was about midnight. She then lay on her bed in expectation of the result; but finding death not approaching, after some minutes, she took some of the poison which remained in the bottom of the vessel and endeavoured to repeat the dose.

voured to push it down her throat, but its bitter taste she said made her to spit out a part of it. Altogether, it seemed on subsequent examination, that she must have taken and retained in her stomach about *fifty-six grains of arsenious acid*. At one in the morning, the first symptoms of poisoning manifested themselves by several attempts at vomiting, and by a feeling of burning heat in the throat, and in the region of the stomach. It should be mentioned that the patient had that day eaten a hearty dinner. Fortunately for her, the digestive process was not entirely finished when vomiting came on, as a portion of the food was ejected and with it probably a part of the poison. Soon after the pain became violent, followed by cramp in the calves of the legs.

Dr. Deville saw the patient at four o'clock in the morning. She had at this time vomited three or four times; she had intense pain in the frontal region, the face was extremely red; the eyes were greatly swollen and filled with tears; there was a sense of extreme burning and suffocation in the throat. The pulse was strong, full and bounding, and acute suffering in the stomach. Dr. D. supposed he had arrived too late to afford effectual assistance, and gave only some milk and other drinks, with a view to produce vomiting; and applied a poultice over the stomach. These means were productive of no relief; on the contrary, the symptoms increased in intensity.

Dr. Delens was at this time called in, and suggested a trial of the hydrated tritoxide of iron, which was procured at half past five in the morning, five and a half hours after the injection of the poison. The antidote was given in doses of about one ounce every quarter of an hour until eight o'clock, by which time nearly half a pound had been taken; it was then discontinued, as it had produced vomiting several times and purged twice, and as the symptoms appeared abating. She still, however, suffered from violent cramps, particularly in the left leg.

The pulse was still full and bounding; the pains in the epigastrium at times insupportable, and then almost disappearing. Twenty-five leeches were applied over stomach, followed by cataplasms and emollient injections.

During this and several succeeding days, the fever continued, accompanied with the most violent headache, which prevented the patient from enjoying a moment's repose. The pain in the epigastrium, however, gradually diminished; by the aid of warm baths and a soothing treatment, the patient improved, and after eleven days she entirely recovered.

44. *Effects of Respiring Carbonic Acid.*—By C. T. COATRUPE. On the night of the 24th October, 1838, at twelve o'clock I retired to my library, a room 16 feet 6 inches long, 13 feet 10 inches wide, and 9 feet 4 inches high; its capacity was 2129.82 cubic feet. The chimney was closely built up with bricks and mortar. The window was very large, but was perfectly tight as to the admission of air. In this window were two casements, each 3 feet 1 inch high, and 1 foot 2 inches wide; each of them fitted well. The door was 6 feet 5 inches high, and 2 feet 10 inches wide; it fitted well against the stopping strips, but it left a vacancy of about a twelfth of an inch from the floor; and having a key-hole of the ordinary size, it may be said to have afforded a space for the ingress or egress of air, equal to an aperture 3 inches long and 1 inch wide. The temperature of the room was 54 deg. Fah.

The stove employed on this occasion was on Harper's and Joyce's principle, and was about 7 inches in diameter and 16 inches deep. The inverted cone, through which the air entered at the bottom of the stove, was perforated with 12 holes each about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in diameter. The ventilator on the top was about 4 inches in diameter, and of the "wheel" construction; it was left perfectly open.

The charcoal was of the common kind, and not recently prepared; the stove could contain 4lbs. avoirdupois of this charcoal, which always required about two hours combustion before the aqueous vapour was entirely dissipated. On several occasions I had weighed the stove, with its contents, immediately after the complete dissipation of its aqueous vapour, and again after an interval of

from 3 to 4 hours. The loss usually averaged after the rate of 1 ounce per 18 minutes. When fully charged with common charcoal, 4 lbs. of fuel would always maintain combustion during from 20 to 21 hours, the ventilation being quite open all the time. This stove was charged with fuel, and lighted at 11 p. m. on the night of the 24th inst.; it was placed out of doors for one hour, and then taken into my room, and placed at a distance of 7 feet from the front of the sofa upon which I lay, and at right angles to my head. The sofa was 3 feet wide, and 2 feet high, consequently my head may be supposed to have been about 8 feet 6 inches distant from the stove, and perhaps about 2 feet 3 inches above the floor. Having fastened the door inside, I lay down in a thick, woolen dressing-gown at 12. At 4 a. m. I felt a slight degree of giddiness, which was scarcely perceptible, unless any attempt was made to turn upon the pillow. This increased until 5½ a. m., when my sensations resembled, in every respect, those felt by many persons when at sea, viz., intense vertigo, aggravated by the slightest motion; a desire to be sick, without the power; great prostration of strength, and apparent inanition, or want of capability to move any muscle of the body. To these were added a very full, throbbing, quick pulse, producing an impression upon the brain as though the arteries were rapidly distended to their very utmost capacity; the maximum impulse being accompanied by a peculiar thrill, resembling that produced by a light touch upon a piece of catgut, which had been strained until it was about to break. The cephalalgia was of unwonted and agonising violence, and particularly affected the occipital regions. I felt no symptoms of suffocation, although I could easily have fancied myself poisoned. It was evidently time to move, so I quickly slid over the edge of the sofa, and tried hastily to open the nearest window. My strength failed; I fell immediately upon the cushion of the sofa, and in less than a minute was literally streaming with perspiration. In a few minutes I made another effort to open the other window, and with great difficulty succeeded. I crawled upon my hands and knees, to the sofa again, and for a short time remained insensible. The fresh air, however, soon revived me, and I recovered sufficiently to get to the door, and opened it, and dragged the stove into the adjoining passage, and got again to the sofa, where I remained for 13 hours, enduring the utmost distress. About 7 a. m. my wife came into the room; she saw me very ill, but I could not give her any information as to the cause. She invited me to take some pulv. rhei., which was the only medicine she could command. I nodded assent, and it was with the greatest difficulty that I could sustain myself in any position to swallow it.

In the course of the day (about 3 p. m.) a medical friend, Mr. T. Davis, of Nailsea, accidentally called upon me. He saw my predicament, and prepared a few effervescing draughts, which soon set the rhubarb in action. At 7 p. m. I dressed myself, and while everything was fresh in my memory I tried to write; but the headach returning with the effort, I was obliged to discontinue. At 12 last night I retired to the same sofa, all things remaining as during the preceding night, with the exception of the stove, slept well, and this morning am almost recovered.

If one ounce of charcoal was consumed in 18 minutes, 18.33 ounces would be consumed in five hours and a half. If 12.94 grains of carbon be equivalent to 100 cubic inches of carbonic acid gas (Dr. Thomson), 18.33 ounces, or 8019.375 grs. of carbon will be equivalent to 61973 cubic inches, or 35.85 cubic feet, of carbonic acid gas. If the respiration of an adult human being consume the oxygen of 151.1 cubic feet of atmospheric air (vide Essay, p. 13) in 24 hours, it will produce 30.22 cubic feet of carbonic acid in that time, or 6.92 cubic feet in five hours and a half. Hence the total quantity of carbonic acid gas, eliminated by both stove and respiration, amounted to 35.85+6.92=42.77 cubic feet.

Now, the total capacity of the room was 2129.82 cubic feet, and, if we could suppose the chamber to have been perfectly air-tight, the total quantity of carbonic acid that could possibly have existed in its atmosphere at the expiration of five hours and a half, would have been but 2 per cent.

	Cub. ft.
The nitrogen would remain as before - - - - -	1703.86
The oxygen would have been reduced to - - - - -	383.19
And the carbonic acid, instead of being about 1 cub. foot, would be increased by - - - - -	42.77
	2129.82

I regretted exceedingly, that I could not avail myself of a mercurial trough which was standing upon a table between myself and the stove, all in readiness, with receivers filled with mercury, &c., to have retained some of the air of the apartment before the window was opened; but it was absolutely impossible for me to have done so at the proper time.

And now comes the point;—Is carbonic acid a poisonous gas (Dr. Christison)?—or does it kill by suffocation (Dr. Thomson)? I conceive Dr. Thomson's (!) opinion to be correct. In my own case, all the symptoms of poisoning were apparent; and none of those of suffocation, and I attribute them entirely to the noxious effluvia which escaped with the carbonic acid gas; for unless the carbonic acid did really gravitate, which is not at all probable, the quantity proportioned to the atmosphere was not sufficient, even at its maximum, *to have produced suffocation*; and I am certain that I have breathed a larger proportion of pure carbonic acid gas, *without being poisoned*.

In the instance of death related by Dr. Christison, of a boy who had been teased by a party of smiths, who held a recently-extinguished candle under his nose, the effect never could have resulted from the carbonic acid gas, but must have been occasioned by some such noxious principle as so completely enervated yours, most truly.—*Lancet*, 10th Nov. 1838.

MEDICAL STATISTICS.

45. *Vital Statistics of Glasgow*.—In April, 1838, Dr. ROBERT COWAN, one of the physicians to the Royal Infirmary of Glasgow, read before the Glasgow Statistical Society a highly interesting paper on the statistics of fever and small-pox, in the great manufacturing metropolis of Scotland—the amount of sickness and mortality in which, from influenza, cholera and fever, has for several years past, exceeded the proportion in any other town of the same population in Britain.

The inhabitants of Glasgow are yearly exposed to deleterious influences which demand the fullest investigation and the most prompt correction. As the increase of fever, especially during the last seven years, has taken place not in years of famine or distress, but during a period of unexampled prosperity—a period when the wages of labour have been ample—the price of provisions comparatively low, and every individual able and willing to work, secure of steady and remunerating employment, it cannot be doubted that the main evil to be overcome is the too crowded state of the population. When to this radical evil we add the causes enumerated by Dr. Cowan, and which we regard as active predisponents, there can be little room for surprise at the distressing prevalence of fevers in Glasgow. These are the total want of cleanliness among the lower orders of the community; the absence of ventilation in the more densely peopled districts; the accumulation, for weeks and months together, of filth of every description in the public and private dunghills; the over-crowded state of the lodging-houses resorted to by the lowest classes, &c. The deleterious effects of the causes first enumerated by Dr. C. cannot be doubted, but the last circumstance he mentions, we regard as the primary evil.

We select from the fourth number (January, 1838,) of the *London Statistical Journal*, some of the most interesting facts developed by the researches of Dr. Cowan.

With regard to the climate of Glasgow, its main heat is estimated at 47 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° Fahrenheit. The average yearly quantity of rain, from an estimate, including 30 years, is 22 328 inches. The least quantity in any one year was 14.468, in 1803—the greatest 28.554, in 1828.

That the numbers admitted into the hospital, and the amount of fever cases, may be compared with the population at different dates, the following table is given:—

Year.	1791.	1801.	1811.	1819.	1821.	1831.
Population.	66,578	83,769	110,460	147,197	147,043	202,426

At the census of 1831, the amount of the rural population was 3908, that of the town 198,518.

The increase of population in Glasgow is to be chiefly ascribed to immigration, and the demand for females—domestics and labourers in the numerous cotton and power-loom factories and bleach-fields in the neighbourhood of the city, being very great, the largest proportion of the immigrants are of this sex. Those who resort to towns for employment are generally between the ages of 15 and 25, a fact which has an important bearing upon the statistics of fever. The relative proportion of the middle and wealthy orders to the labouring class has been yearly diminishing, and hence one cause of the increasing mortality of Glasgow.

The following tabular view of the amount of population, and rate of mortality, for the 14 years from 1821 to 1835, inclusive, is taken from a letter addressed by Henry Paul, Esq., to the Lord Provost.

Years.	Population.	Burials.	Rate of Mortality.
1822	151,440	3690	1 : 41.00
1823	156,170	4647	1 : 33.75
1824	161,120	4670	1 : 33.94
1825	168,280	4898	1 : 33.94
1826	171,660	4538	1 : 37.82
1827	177,880	5136	1 : 34.51
1828	183,150	5942	1 : 30.82
1829	189,270	5462	1 : 34.71
1830	195,650	5785	1 : 37.73
1831	202,420	6547	1 : 30.91
1832	209,230	10,278	1 : 20.35
1833	216,450	6632	1 : 32.63
1834	223,940	6728	1 : 33.28
1835	231,800	7849*	1 : 29.53

Mean mortality from 1821 to 1835 inclusive,	1 : 33.24
1836	244,000 9143 1 : 26.687†

The Royal Infirmary, for the reception of medical and surgical patients, was opened in the month of December, 1794, and contained accommodation for about one hundred and fifty patients. An addition was made to it in 1816, containing 80 beds. One-half of the Fever Hospital was opened in 1829, and the other in 1832, and, with some additional accommodation afforded since, can now receive two hundred and twenty patients.

The permanent hospital accommodation was—

From 1795 till 1816	- - - - -	150 beds.
1816 till 1829	- - - - -	230
1829 till 1832	- - - - -	330
1832	- - - - -	450

At which it still remains.

But besides the permanent hospital accommodation, stated in the foregoing

* In the burials from 1822 till 1835, there were included 6257 still-born.

† Of the 9143 burials in 1836, there were 702 still-born.

table, it has, on various occasions, been absolutely necessary to provide temporary hospitals, and also to appropriate apartments within the Infirmary for the reception of patients, apartments never intended for any such purposes. These demands for additional room have been solely caused by the prevalence of typhus fever, with the exception of the hospitals required in 1832 for the reception of patients affected with cholera.

In 1818, a temporary Fever Hospital was erected at Spring Gardens by public subscription, fitted to contain 200 patients. It was opened on the 30th March, 1818, and closed on the 19th July, 1819.

This hospital was again opened in 1827; at the expense of the Infirmary, and kept open for five months.

In 1828, a temporary booth was erected in the Infirmary grounds, capable of containing 68 patients.

A Fever Hospital, with 135 beds, was opened at Mile-End on the 9th January, 1832, and closed the same year.

Notwithstanding the above amount of hospital accommodation, that portion of it allotted for the reception of fever patients has, on various occasions, been found insufficient, and numerous applicants for admission have been thrown back upon their own resources—left to spread the contagion of typhus around their miserable dwellings, thereby augmenting the sum of human misery already existing in its most appalling forms.

The first table exhibits the total number of patients treated in the Royal Infirmary from its opening in December, 1794, till the 1st January, 1837, distinguishing the number of fever patients each year.

Tables of the total number of patients treated in the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, from 1795 till 1836, distinguishing the number of fever patients each year.

Year.	Total.	Fever.	Year.	Total.	Fever.	Year.	Total.	Fever.
1795	226	18	1802	729	104	1809	886	76
1796	338	43	1803	806	85	1810	935	82
1797	545	83	1804	678	97	1811	826	45
1798	569	45	1805	719	99	1812	877	16
1799	631	128	1806	700	75	1813	1022	35
1800	733	104	1807	726	25	1814	1135	90
1801	702	63	1808	840	27	1815	1340	230
1st period.	3744	484	2d Period.	5198	512	3d Period.	7022	574

Year.	Total.	Fever.	Year.	Total.	Fever.	Year.	Total.	Fever.
1816	1517	399	1823	1759	269	1830	2010	729
1817	1886	714	1824	2091	523	1831	3103	1657
1818	2289	1371	1825	2438	897	1832	2974	1589
1819	1861	630	1826	2317	926	1833	3082	1288
1820	1570	289	1827	2725	1084	1834	3879	2003
1821	1454	234	1828	3133	1511	1835	3260	1359
1822	1598	229	1829	2321	865	1836	5130	3125
4th Period.	12167	3866	5th Period.	16784	6075	6th period.	23518	11750

For the last three or four years, patients with small-pox and scarlet-fever have been included in the returns of fever.

In the first septennial period, the fever patients treated in the Infirmary were 12.92 per cent. of the whole.

In the second,	-	-	9.84	"	"
In the third,	-	-	8.17	"	"
In the fourth,	-	-	31.77	"	"
In the fifth,	-	-	36.19	"	"
In the sixth,	-	-	49.96	"	"

If to this table, strictly applicable to the Royal Infirmary, the numbers treated in the temporary hospitals be added, the per centage in the fourth period will be raised, from 31.77 to 47.62; whilst that of the sixth period will rise from 49.96 to 54.83.

The number of fever patients treated in the Infirmary during the last seven years, amounts to 11,751, whilst the total amount during the first thirty-five years was only about the same, namely, 11,511.

The distressing rate of mortality existing in Glasgow is rendered the more conspicuous by comparison with that of other manufacturing towns. Thus, for example, Manchester, with a population at the last census of 227,808, and which, in its constitution and density must nearly resemble that of Glasgow, has been for years, and yet remains comparatively free from fevers. The average annual number treated in the Manchester Fever Hospital for seven years, ending in 1836, was - - - - - 497
That of Glasgow during the same period, - - - - - 1842
The number treated in Manchester Hospital in 1836, was - - - 780
" " Glasgow " " - - - 3125

For some causes not well understood, a great change has taken place in the rates of mortality in the two cities compared.

From 1797 to 1806, both inclusive, the number of the fever patients treated in the Glasgow Infirmary was only 883, whilst those treated in the Manchester fever Hospital amounted to 4618.

In Leeds, another manufacturing city, with a population at the last census of 123,393, the number of patients affected with fever and treated in the Hospital, averages for the last seven years, only 274.

In Newcastle and Gateshead, with a population of 57,917, the number of patients treated in the institution for the cure and prevention of contagious fever, amounts in the last seven years to only 276, or 39 per annum.

In Liverpool, with a population of 189,242, there were 1700 cases of fevers treated in the Hospital during 1836, a large proportion of which were seamen of the port, a numerous class.

Dr. Cowan observes, that further comparisons of the rates of fever in other towns in England, contrasted with that subsisting in Glasgow, would, he fears, only place the insalubrity of the latter in a more prominent and alarming point of view.

In Edinburgh, with a population of 162,156, the number of fever patients admitted in the Royal Infirmary, for the last three years, has been 2270, giving the average of about 756 per annum.

Dr. Cowan gives a table exhibiting the number of cases of fever patients treated by the district surgeons for the years preceding and including 1836. The whole number of cases was 9340, of which 3138 were sent to the Infirmary and 6202 treated at home. This shows the arduous and dangerous duties imposed on the district surgeons, from fevers alone. Few of these gentlemen, he says, escape an attack. The salary allowed each is 21*l.* per annum, a sum quite inadequate for the duties performed—notwithstanding which the situations are sought for with an eagerness denoting great professional ardour.

The Glasgow Fever Hospital can accommodate, without being over-crowded, 220 patients. From the 31st of October, 1835, till the 1st of November, 1836, there were 2655 admissions, of whom 142 were treated by the clinical physicians, and 2513 by Dr. Cowan himself. The numbers admitted each month

were as follows:—1835. Nov. 124—Dec. 140. 1836. Jan. 141—Feb. 125—March 176—April 203—May 246—June 272—July 264—Aug. 306—Sept. 303—Oct. 355.

The average residence of each patient in the Hospital was 18 days. The males and females were nearly equal in number.

Although the Fever Hospital is strictly appropriated to the reception of patients labouring under fever, small-pox, scarlet fever, measles, and erysipelas, still patients afflicted with other ailments, are occasionally sent there, either from their diseases being mistaken for fever, or from the facilities of admission being greater than those of the Infirmary.

Dr. Lombard, of Geneva, estimates the Irish population of Glasgow at 60,000, and ascribes the prevalence and what he deems the peculiarities of the last named city, to the number of Irish residents. The same opinion is expressed by the author of the article "Vital Statistics," in McCulloch's Statistics of the British Empire, vol. ii. p. 572. But these statements are proved by Dr. Cowan to be incorrect. The proportions of the Scotch, English and Irish inhabitants is ascertained by the census of 1831 to be as follows:—

Scotch.	English.	Irish.	Foreigners.	Total.
163,600	2919	35,554	353	202,426

The respective portions of fever patients were 66.10 per cent. Scotch, 9.19 per cent. English, and 31.67 Irish.

From an examination of the tables showing the ages of the patients admitted, distinguishing males from females, it appears that the period of life at which fever is most liable to occur, is from the age of 20 to 25 years for males, and from the age of 15 to 20 for females. The admissions rapidly diminish after the age of 40. Of 2257 individuals affected with fever, 2075 were under the 40th year, and only 182 above it.

It appears not a little remarkable, that whilst the ratio of mortality among the males is as great as 1 in every 6 121-163, that of the females is only 1 in every 11 21-101; the mortality of the males is 14.87 per cent.; that of the females 8.92 per cent. At the age of 15, the rate of mortality is nearly equal for both sexes. At the age of 30, the proportion of male deaths is nearly double that of the females. The mortality of males under 20 years of age, is 6.04 per cent. of the cases; that of the females under 20 4.90 per cent. The total mortality under 30 years of age is 8.35 per cent.; above 30, 24.84 per cent.

The increasing rate of mortality in Glasgow has been ascribed to the prevalence of fever, but Dr. C. shows that small-pox has had its share in augmenting the mortality. Unlike fever, however, the last named disease exerts its influence during infancy, and to it, in a great measure, Dr. C. attributes the increased mortality under ten years of age.

The deaths from fever, in 1835, were 419 by small-pox 473

" " in 1836, " 841 " 557

Of the deaths from fever, only 136 were under the tenth year, whilst the deaths of small-pox under the tenth year amounted to 993. G. E.

46. *Periodical Mortality of the Human Race.*—At the termination of the first twelve years, about one-third of those born are with the departed; the proportion being against males in the ratio of 855 to 732 females (yearly). After this term (twelve years) to the age of forty-four, the middle period of life, and by far the more hazardous to women, the comparative mortality shows a different result; being as forty-six females to forty-one males. At the termination of this period, when procreation ceases, female life is comparatively the most secure; the average mortality from the ages of forty-five to sixty-five being about as sixty-three males to sixty females. The comparative security of life subsequent to this is slightly in favour of females. The table shows a great excess of mortality among females; but it should be remarked that the excess of female population, after this period of life, is nearly twelve per cent. over the male, and the ratio of mortality is hence by so much greater, without indicating any compara-

tive insecurity of life. In collating this table from the official documents before us, we cannot but remark the extraordinary mortality it evinces at the termination of each decade of man's life from the age of thirty years. In every instance, from thirty years of age and upwards, the mortality in the year which terminates the decade very greatly exceeds that in the preceding and succeeding years; and, as a matter somewhat curious, we shall show these instances:—

Age.	Mortality.	Age.	Mortality.	Age.	Mortality.
29 - -	26,630	49 - -	23,680	69 - -	23,038
30 - -	31,027	*50 - -	33,527	*70 - -	52,963
31 - -	23,201	51 - -	20,911	71 - -	32,162
39 - -	22,778	59 - -	25,782	79 - -	32,162
*40 - -	33,503	*60 - -	43,273	*80 - -	45,617
41 - -	20,969	61 - -	26,084	81 - -	27,425

This strikes us as something extraordinary; it seems to say, that, at these periods, a man is under the influence of some physical change, when he either surrenders or renews his life lease.—*Browning's Domestic and Financial Condition of Great Britain.*

47. *Greater number of still-born in illegitimate than in legitimate births.*—It is well known that unmarried females who become pregnant are much more likely to have still-born children than married women. Professor JORG, in a recent work (*Die Zurechnungs fähigkeit der Schwangern und Gebärenden beleuchtet*) states that in Leipzig, in 1835, there were born 1131 legitimate and 249 illegitimate children, of which 45 of the former and 28 of the latter were still-born; being one illegitimate child still-born in 8 25-28 births; and one legitimate child still-born in 25 6-45 births. In 1826 there were born 1135 legitimate and 242 illegitimate, of which 52 of the former and 18 of the latter were still-born; the ratio being in legitimate births one still-born in 21 43-52 births, and in illegitimate one still-born in 13 8-18 births.

48. *Pauper Lunatics and Idiots in England and Wales.*—It is stated in the No. of *Statistical Journal* for October, 1837, that there were in England and Wales 13,667 pauper lunatics and idiots. Of this number 2834 were male lunatics and 3568 female lunatics; 3372 male idiots, and 3393 female idiots. The proportion which the number of pauper lunatics and idiots bears to the population generally, is greater in the agricultural than in the manufacturing and trading districts. Taking the whole population of England, there is one pauper lunatic or idiot for every 1038 persons, and in Wales, one for every 807 persons; and upon the population of England and Wales together there is one for every 1017 persons. The greatest number of lunatics and idiots, in proportion to the population, is to be found in Rutland, where there is one for every 497 persons, and the smallest number in Lancashire, where there is only one for every 1960 persons. The number of criminal lunatics in England, on the 12th July, 1837, was 178, of whom 138 were confined in asylums, and 40 in gaols.

ANIMAL CHEMISTRY.

49. *Urea in the Blood in Cholera.*—In a recent Number of *Poggendorf's Annals*, it is stated that MARCHAND detected slight indication of the presence of Urea in the blood of a patient who was affected with cholera, and who had not passed urine for three days. Still more recently Dr. HARRY RAINY, of Glasgow, has distinctly detected urea in the blood of a patient who had died with all the symptoms of Asiatic cholera. The patient, a female, was ill eleven days, during which only 36 ounces of urine was secreted, including a small quantity found in the bladder after death. The blood analyzed was taken from the larger vessels and heart.

There was detected rather more than one grain of urea in each ounce measure of blood.—*London Medical Gazette*, 1839.

50. *Analysis of the Liquor Amnii*.—Dr. G. O. REES has made a chemical examination of the liquor amnii in four cases, obtained at the 7-12 month of utero-gestation. The results show that this fluid varies greatly in proportional constitution in different individuals, at the same period of utero-gestation, so that, like all the secretions of the body, it is affected by the temperament and diathesis of the mother. The specific gravity of the secretions, however, varied but little in the specimens examined by Dr. Rees (1007. to 1008.6), a precaution, he thinks, on the part of nature to preserve a medium of fixed power to oppose the motions of the fœtus in utero.

The experiments of Dr. Vogt, of Berne, (see this Journal for Nov. 1837, p. 219,) would lead us to suppose that there is a great variation in the density of the fluid at different periods. Dr. Rees does not regard those experiments as conclusive, as there is a want of proper relation between the solid contents and specific gravity of the fluids, as given by the Swiss chemist.—*Guy's Hospital Reports*, Oct. 1838.

MISCELLANEOUS.

51. *Revaccination*.—Upon this important subject, which is at present very much agitated in France, there is an interesting memoir by M. DEZEIMERIS, in *L'Experience Journ. de Méd. et Chirurg.* for December last.

According to this writer, the idea that the preservative effects of vaccination have but a limited duration, and that it may be necessary to renew its impressions, at longer or shorter periods, is founded upon two fundamental facts:—

1. Variola, although a preservative from variola, does not afford an infallible and ever-enduring protection from the same disease. Repetitions of variola are never observed following each other closely, but with long intervals from the first attacks. The preservative power is, therefore, at its highest degree, immediately after the body has been exposed to the principle of the disease, and gradually becomes weaker in proportion to the length of time elapsing after this epoch.

2. The practice of inoculation for small pox has shown, that the variolous virus produces a milder form of disease than that resulting when taken the natural way; that the virus becomes milder and milder in the course of successive transplantations; from all which it seems reasonable to conclude that in losing strength during successive reproductions, it also loses its protective power.

Upon these grounds it is allowable to presume that vaccination, the resemblance of which to variola is so striking, must be subjected to similar laws. It is naturally to be doubted whether the preservative power of vaccination ought to be regarded as absolutely unalterable, and it may be presumed that the virus obtained from the cow would become more and more feeble after successive transplantations through the human system. Prudence would, therefore, seem to dictate the necessity of returning from time to time to the original source of the vaccine virus.

Now these conclusions were entertained by the first originators and promoters of vaccination, and promulgated by Jenner himself. But it has been chiefly since the year 1820, from which period so many epidemics have prevailed, calculated to throw doubts upon the question of the infallibility and unalterability of the preservative powers of vaccination and variola, that the greatest number of authors have occupied themselves upon the question of revaccination.

M. Dezeimeris commences his examination of the evidences upon this subject, by reference to the documents furnished by the northern countries of Europe. A few estimates, taken from the Copenhagen bills of mortality, will prove more than all reasoning upon the subject, the degree of preservative power exerted by

vaccination during the first years of its adoption. From the year 1749 to 1808, there perished by small pox in the Danish Capital the following numbers:—

1749 to 1758	2991 persons.
1759 to 1768	2068 “
1769 to 1778	2224 “
1779 to 1788	2028 “
1789 to 1798	2920 “
1799 to 1808	724 “

It must be observed, that in the first two years of the last period, vaccination had not yet been established.

The following facts, furnished by subsequent years, are worthy of attention, as possessing striking interest. From 1800 to 1804, not a single case of small pox occurred among the vaccinated. In 1804, two cases of varioloid occurred. In 1805, five persons died in Copenhagen of varioloid. In 1806, three more of the vaccinated fell victims to varioloid. In 1808, there were 46 deaths by small pox, including 13 cases of varioloid. In 1819, and more especially in 1823, the cases of varioloid and genuine variola occurred in greater number, and were not limited to Copenhagen. It is of importance to mark the ages of the victims of small pox after vaccination, since it furnishes the means of ascertaining the period that has elapsed from vaccination. The following information upon this point is derived from the documents: 24 of the subjects were under the seventh year; 42 between 7 and 11; 191 between 12 and 23; so that in nine-tenths more than ten years had elapsed after vaccination. Three of the victims had genuine confluent small pox; they had been vaccinated on its first introduction. Thus it appears, that the most violent cases, such as terminated fatally, and, consequently, those in whom there no longer subsisted either the privilege of being preserved from the disease, nor even the power of mitigating its violence, were precisely the cases occurring in those that had been the longest vaccinated.

In 1825, a new epidemic commenced in the month of September, which did not terminate before the middle of the year 1827. The records furnish the following particulars: In 623 cases of variola or of varioloid, 428 occurred among those who had been vaccinated; 26 among these had variola, in a form which differed in no respect from that occurring among the vaccinated, and two of these died. This mortality, so very small when compared with that occurring among the unvaccinated, with whom 1 in 5 died, proves that vaccination, even where it does not preserve entirely from the contagion, lessens its malignity. The documents also prove that the proportion of the vaccinated attacked by small-pox, becomes greater and greater from year to year, and that the susceptibility to variola is in direct proportion to the time that has elapsed after vaccination. A new epidemic occurred in 1828, the characteristics of which differed in no respect from those of former years. Of the subjects which the public authorities had revaccinated in 1825, not one was known to be attacked.

In 1832, the epidemic was still more violent, and revaccination preserved the power it had before shown in protecting from attacks of the contagion.

The following results connected with this period, are furnished by Dr. Wendt; it includes observations made upon 3964 cases of revaccination:

Age.	Successful	Revaccinations.	Unsuccessful.
1 to 10	-	33	-
10 to 20	-	216	-
20 to 25	-	2175	-
25 to 30	-	191	-
30 to 40	-	123	-
40 to 50	-	18	-
		<hr/>	
		2756	1208

The facts furnished by Denmark, therefore prove; 1. That for some years the variola affords a perfect protection against variola; after which its preservative

virtue no longer prevents a second attack, although it exerts a modifying agency in a greater or less degree. Finally, after the lapse of a certain period, it neither prevents variola from occurring, nor from pursuing its natural course, nor even from proving fatal.

2. That vaccination affords an absolute protection from variola during some years, after which it does not prevent a second attack, but still exerts a modifying agency over the disease, to a greater or less degree. Finally, after a certain period, it neither prevents the variola from appearing, nor from running its ordinary course, nor from causing death.

3. That in regard to absolute protection, revaccination enjoys the same power as variola and vaccination; that it succeeds the more certainly in proportion as the individual upon whom it is practised is removed from the period when he had the small-pox or the cow-pox, and consequently as the necessity is greatest. It is proper to observe that it would appear from the observations furnished by epidemics, that the preservative power exerted by revaccination is temporary, just as is the case with that afforded by variola and first vaccination. From all this, one is forced to declare that both experience and reason dictate the necessity of revaccination, and that it should be propagated with as much zeal as first vaccination.

53. *New Works.*—The following medical works have recently been published in France.

Mémoire sur la cure radicale des pieds-bots. Par H. Scouttaten. 3 fr.

Traité théorique et pratique des maladies des femmes. Par J. Imbert, tom. 1re. 6 fr. The second and concluding volume is promised in six months.

Anatomie comparée du système nerveux. Par F. Leuret. 1re Livraison. To be completed in 2 vols. 8vo., and 1 vol. folio, of 33 plates. With uncoloured plates 48 fr. With coloured plates 96 fr.

Des pertes seminales involontaires. Par M. le Prof. Lallemand. 2d partie.

Traité théorique et pratique des altérations organique simple et cancéreuses de la matrice. Par F. Duparcque, D. M. 2d edition entirely remodelled and enlarged. 7 fr.

Traité de pathologie externe et de Médecine opératoire. par A. Vidal, (de Cassis.) tomes 1 et 2, 8vo. To be completed in five vols.

Maladies des enfans—affections de poitrine. 1re partie Pneumonie. Par MM. Rilliet et Barthéz, internes des hôpitaux.

Recherches cliniques sur la meningite des enfans. Par M. A. Becquerel, internes des hôpitaux.

AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE.

On the Catoptric examination of the Eye. By THE EDITOR.—In our number for August, 1838, we gave an account of a new means of Diagnosis between Amaurosis and Cataract, discovered by M. Sanson. This surgeon observed that, when a lighted candle was held before an eye, the pupil of which was dilated, and in which there was no obscurity of the transparent tissues, three distinct images of the flame were visible; two upright and one inverted. Experiments made to determine the causes of these reflected images, and the changes which occur in their number, position, &c. have shown, that if a light be placed before the convex face of a single watch glass, or of several arranged one behind the other, one or more upright images of the flame will be seen according to the number of glasses used.* Now in the eye there are two superimposed convex surfaces, viz: 1. the cornea, 2. the anterior capsule of the crystalline lens. Thus the formation of two upright images is explained.

Again, if a light be placed before the concave surface of a watch glass an inverted image is seen. Such a surface exists in the eye, in the posterior capsule of the lens; and thus the third image is accounted for.

We have been led by the statement of M. Sanson to examine the eye catoptrically in a number of cases within the last ten months, and the results of our investigations are entirely confirmatory of the representations of that distinguished surgeon. But it is not merely as a means of diagnosis between cataract and amaurosis, that this method of examining the eye is useful. The colour, size, distinctness, &c., of the reflected images enables us to distinguish many conditions of the transparent tissues of the eyes, which could not, by any other means, be diagnosticated. Dr. Mackenzie of Glasgow has recently employed it to determine the seat of the different varieties of glaucoma, and it is capable of further application. In fact, we are persuaded that the catoptric examination of the eye will prove as useful a means of diagnosis in various alterations of that organ, as auscultation and percussion are for those of the chest.

It should be borne in mind that very careful examination is usually required before those who are unaccustomed to observe them are able to detect the reflected images—once noticed, however, they are afterwards readily seen.

Dr. John Neill, the intelligent resident surgeon at Wills Hospital, has constructed some models which serve to illustrate these catoptric phenomena, and to assist the student in detecting the reflected images. These models are formed of three watch glasses. Two of them are of the same size and smaller than the third. The former are attached together with their concave surfaces opposed, so as to represent the capsule of the lens,

* At least so it is stated. But in truth each image is double—one being reflected from each surface of the glass; and these images are the more distinct the thicker the glass is.

and are inserted in a hole made in a circular piece of pasteboard. This diaphragm thus constructed, is placed in a pasteboard cylinder or circular box near one end, and this end is covered with the larger glass, to represent the cornea. The other end of the box is closed, and the parts described are kept together by strips of paper and paste. We have thus a good representation of a natural eye. To represent the opacity of the capsule, other models are made with paper pasted on one or the other of the reflecting surfaces. With a little ingenuity models may thus be made to exhibit sufficiently well most of the different conditions of loss of transparency of the tissues of the eye.

Our investigations are not sufficiently matured to authorise us to lay them at present before the public, but we hope in due time to communicate the results.

Expulsion of one twin Fœtus, the other retained to the full period,
By S. JACKSON, M. D., late of Northumberland.

When I wrote my note on the expulsion of one twin fœtus, with the safe retention of the other to the full period of utero-gestation, published in Vol. XXII. p. 237, of this Journal, I was not aware that similar cases had been recorded. Hence there is an act of justice to be awarded to our learned friend, DR. JAMES MEASE, who lately referred me to a paper which he published on the same subject, in the Eclectic Repertory for the year 1819, vol. IX. p. 591.

Dr. Mease there relates four cases; a general idea of which may here be given in a few words.

CASE I. In this the abortion occurred about the fourth month of pregnancy, under Dr. Mease's own observation, and a delivery of a child at the full time, five months afterward, occurred to Dr. Wm. Gardner then of Darby, near this city.

CASE II. Dr. Mease quotes from the *London Medico-Chirurg. Transact.* vol. IX. p. 195, as recorded by Mr. John Chapman of Windsor. A blighted fœtus with a *perfectly healthy* placenta was expelled with much pain and considerable flooding; the other fœtus was carried to the full time and the woman had a fortunate accouchement.

CASE III. In the *Transact. of the Royal Society of London for 1818*, Dr. Granville refers to a case related in one of the volumes of the *College of Physicians, of London*, entitled "a case of superfœtation." A lady was delivered of a male child in November, 1807, and in three months afterward, she was delivered of another male child, "completely formed." The first died when nine days old, the other lived longer.

CASE IV. "I have now under my eyes," says Dr. Granville, *loco cit.*, "a recent preparation, where the complete ovum is seen, such as it was when expelled at the seventh month of pregnancy, the lady being safely delivered of another child alive two months afterward. Although the first fœtus was expelled at the seventh month, it was evidently the growth of a shorter period, and had remained in the uterus dead for three months."

Closure and Obliteration of the Os uteri, during pregnancy. By SAMUEL WEBBER, M. D. of Charlestown, N. H.—Early one morning I was called upon to attend Mrs. O——, aged 28, in labour with her first child. The pains were said to have been regular and of moderate strength all night. Upon examination I found a large rounded tumour pressing

well down into the vagina, but could at first discover no os uteri. After a prolonged and careful examination, I found a little back of the centre of the tumour a slight inequality; consisting of a very shallow depression or dimple, just admitting the tip of my finger with a little inequality in the edges surrounding it, a very slight protuberance being perceptible before and behind it. The cavity of the dimple was smooth and firm. It immediately occurred to me that from some inflammatory action union had taken place between the lips of the os tincæ, thus obliterating it, while the cervix had been completely dilated, either by the growth of the child or by the parturient action. As the pains were not excessive, I determined to wait, with the hope that their progressive action would either overcome the adhesion of the opposing surfaces, or so dilate and enfeeble the point of union, that but little assistance would be necessary; at 3 P. M. the pains began to be severe, but on again examining, I found but little change, though the whole accessible parietes of the uterus seemed thinner and softer than in the morning. After noticing the effect of a pain or two, as another was coming on, I pressed the end of my finger firmly into the shallow depression, so as to present the edge of the nail to its bottom, aiding its effect with a slight scratching and boring motion. In a few seconds the finger passed through to the membranes, and the os uteri rapidly dilated to the size of half a dollar. The labour terminated favourably about 7 P. M., and the mother's getting up was speedy and favourable.

Case of Club-foot treated by division of Tendo Achillis.—By THOS. J. GARDEN, M. D. of Wylliesburg, Va.

I was consulted in August last, by the parents of a child with a horrid deformity of the left foot which had existed from birth. The big toe of the foot pointed inwards to the instep of the opposite foot, the heel pointed outwards, the sole of the foot looked directly backwards, and the child rested in walking on the malleolus externus and outer edge of the foot. About this time a series of successful operations by Dr. Detmold, of New York, appeared in your journal, a careful perusal of which satisfied me at once of the success of the operation and of its easy performance. I did not hesitate to advise an operation and to hazard an opinion favourable to its success. The child was then about nineteen months old, with a manifest and striking disparity in the size of the foot and leg, both being smaller than the opposite or perfect limb.

On the 26th of September the tendon was divided in the presence of Doctors Wilson and Bouldin, in the following manner: The child was placed on its face on a bed, the foot was flexed by an assistant while he pinched up the skin between the thumb and fore finger, immediately over the tendon, between one and two inches above its insertion. A narrow sharp pointed instrument was then passed through the skin with its edge towards the tendon and immediately in contact with it. As was designed it was withdrawn and the tendon divided with a scalpel, with a convex edge, leaving the cutaneous wound on one side about one quarter of an inch long, and about one sixth of an inch on the other side. The tendon separated with a distinct snap, like the breaking of the tenor string of a musical instrument.

When the thumb and finger were removed, and the skin allowed to resume its original position, the cutaneous wounds had separated an inch or

more, and were immediately opposite the tendon on either side. The whole was the work of a few seconds only, and was done much to the satisfaction and gratification of Doctor Bouldin whose zeal had caused him a ride of twenty-five miles to witness it.

The cutaneous wounds were dressed with common court plaster, and the limb and foot put up in a roller with a splint in front, made of a bit of sole leather. No bleeding, no swelling, or inflammation or any other circumstance supervened to jeopard the success of the operation. In forty-eight hours the cutaneous wounds had healed, the extensible cicatrix had formed, and an instrument previously prepared, designed to fulfil the indications in the case was applied. The extension was gradual and perpetual. In six weeks the child, with the aid of a common boot, split open in front to facilitate the introduction of the foot, was able to run about the room on the flat sole of a straight foot. When freed from all restraint there was a tendency in the toe to turn a little inward, but it seemed to be as much an affair of habit as an abnormal state of the parts, as some degree of violence in handling the foot caused not the slightest indication of pain or uneasiness on the part of the child. A few days after my last visit (six weeks after the operation) the parents moved to the State of Tennessee. Neither of them expressed a fear or a doubt about the final and perfect relief of the child, from the use of the boot alone, and many who had seen the foot previous to the operation, and had merely heard of the circumstance, doubted the possibility of the fact that the foot had been straightened and the sole brought down flat upon the floor. The child was in fine health and I have no doubt a speedy and full developement of the limb and foot will ensue.

New Vaccine Virus.—We mentioned in our preceding No. (p. 516,) that Mr. Estlin of Bristol, had obtained vaccine virus directly from the cow—and had transmitted some lymph propagated from it, to this country. We have since been favoured by our friend Dr. J. Carson, with lymph from this source, said to be but fourteen removes from the cow, and have used it in several instances. The disease which resulted had the peculiar characters, described by Jenner, but more strongly marked than we have seen them from the matter at present in use. The inflammation did not make its appearance until somewhat later than usual, (the fifth day,) but the vesicle was regular in its progress, rather larger perhaps than common, but flat and indented in the centre. The scab was thick, dark-coloured and firm—more strongly characteristic of the disease than any scab we have seen for a number of years.

Report of Thomas Lawson, M.D., Surgeon General of the United States Army.—The annual report of the Surgeon General, with a copy of which we have been favoured by the author, is an interesting document.

The number of cases of indisposition under treatment by the officers of the medical staff of the army, between the 30th of September, 1837, and the 30th of September, 1838, is stated to have been 26,053, of which 24,618 were new cases. Of the whole number reported sick, 24,212 have been restored to duty; 478 have been discharged the service; 29 have deserted; 311 have died; leaving on the 30th of September, 1831, 1,028 on the sick report, of which number 555 were convalescent.

The following table exhibits the prevalent diseases and their respective mortality.

Diseases.	No. of Cases.	No. of Deaths.	Diseases.	No. of Cases.	No. of Deaths.
Fever, Intermittent . . .	3641	10	Epilepsy . . .	61	2
Do. Remittent . . .	898	39	Gonorrhœa . . .	348	0
Do. Typhus . . .	62	9	Syphilis . . .	179	2
Do. Inflammation . . .	352	5	Wounds . . .	1597	20
Bronchitis . . .	113	3	Ulcers . . .	611	3
Gastro Enteritis . . .	142	5	Luxations . . .	41	0
Pneumonia . . .	224	14	Fractures . . .	71	3
Phthisis . . .	38	21	Sprains and contusions	300	5
Catarrh . . .	1992	0	Hernia . . .	107	0
Pleurisy . . .	242	2	Scorbutus . . .	161	2
Cholera . . .	146	2	Ascites . . .	43	6
Cynanche . . .	285	1	Apoplexy . . .	3	3
Ophthalmia . . .	310	0	Sequelæ of Intemperance	392	10
Hepatitis . . .	1017	0	All other slight indispositions	4252	0
Diarrhœa . . .	3610	62			
Dysentery . . .	2889	75			
Colic . . .	315	1	Total.	24,608	311

"The proportion of sick to the number of persons in the military service," Dr. Lawson says, "cannot be ascertained as that number varied so frequently in the year, by the discharge of one body of troops, and the admission into the service of new levies of militia and volunteers; nor is the proportion of deaths to the number of sick so absolutely known as might be desired, for the reason that during active operations in the field many of the cases of indisposition were not recorded, while it is to be presumed that the deaths have been accurately stated. Enough, however, has been ascertained from the returns to show that not more than one in eighty-three of the cases reported (a fraction less than one and a quarter per cent.) terminated fatally; and thus to prove that the success of the military surgeons in the treatment of diseases bears a favourable comparison with the results of the practice of medicine in civil life."

"The law requiring an examination of all candidates for appointment in the medical staff before admission into the army, has been," it is stated, "rigidly carried out, and the same useful results as heretofore have been realized."

The following compliment is, we have no doubt, merited.

"Delicacy," observes the surgeon general, "perhaps forbids my saying much in commendation of the medical staff of the army; yet I may be permitted to express the belief, that (with two or three exceptions) no officers of the Government, whether of the civil or military department, are more zealous in the cause of their country, more prompt to obey orders, or more faithful in the discharge of their various duties. This opinion, I am happy to state, is in accordance with that very generally expressed by their associates in arms, of the line of the army. In truth, we have now an efficient corps of talented and experienced medical officers; and as the inducements to enter the army are much greater than heretofore, and the bar to admission into the service without merit is, through the action of the medical boards, complete, we may reasonably calculate on introducing into the army, in each succeeding year a portion of the very *élite* of the profession."

Malignant Pustule.—The *Southern Medical and Surgical Journal*, for February last, contains a very good paper on this disease by Dr. Wm. M. CARPENTER, Professor of Chemistry and Natural History in the College of Louisiana, at Jackson. Dr. Carpenter states that malignant pustule is met with in nearly every part of the State of Louisiana, and he relates eight cases selected from many occurring in his immediate vicinity. Three of these cases were fatal.

Osteo-Sarcoma, and Excision of a large portion of the Lower Jaw. By Dr. J. WORT, of Jackson county, Indiana.—The subject of this case is Mr. Gerardus Ryker, of Jefferson county, Ia., aged 71 years. He is a man of good habits, and has always enjoyed good health, except an attack of white swelling in both legs, about the time of puberty.

"About two years ago, he received a severe contusion on the inferior maxillary bone, by the falling of his horse on the ice, which he thought at the time, had fractured the jaw. In a few days he recovered from this injury, and had forgotten the circumstance till about five months afterwards, when he was seized with most excruciating pain, attended with violent inflammation and swelling of the jaw. This subsided after a few days, by the use of the topical vapour bath, leaving a knot about the size of a small bullet, on the exterior surface of the right side, midway between the centre of the chin and the angle of the bone, apparently immovable. This continued to increase gradually, with occasional paroxysms of severe inflammation, and excruciating pain, till about six months since, when the pain became continual and lancinating, frequently producing severe spasms, with continued fever and constipated bowels. The tumour meanwhile rapidly increased; he had consulted many surgeons, but they all considered his case as hopeless.

"In January last, Dr. W. Davidson, of Madison, a graduate of Edinburgh, and a gentleman of fine medical acquirements, was attending to his case. I was written to by the Doctor for my opinion and advice, and shortly afterwards was called on to see the patient. I visited him on the 19th of January, they having put off calling on me for some time after receiving my answer to Dr. Davidson's letter, believing him to be in a dying condition.

"I found him very feeble, emaciated, and haggard in his appearance, but he became much animated, and joyful on my arrival; so great was his anxiety, and strong his hopes that I would operate on him and give him the only remaining chance of life, or terminate his protracted and insupportable sufferings.

"The tumour was an enlargement of the inferior maxilla, and a change or softening of its substance; the enlargement extended from the neck of the condyloid process to the centre of the chin, on the one hand, and up to the zygomatic process of the malar bone, on the other. From the right ear it reached to within one inch to the left of the trachea, projecting outwardly nearly two inches, and inwardly under the tongue to near the centre of that organ. Below, it involved the throat, pushing the hyoides three-fourths of an inch down to the left side, and compressing the external carotid artery to near its union with the internal carotid. It interrupted his speech, deglutition, and respiration very much, so that at times he was threatened with immediate suffocation.

"I waited till next morning to deliberate on the matter, and from his strong entreaty and perfect resignation to the result of an operation, I concluded to perform it the next day. I therefore called on Doctors Davidson and Hall, of Madison, Ia., to assist in the operation. Having premised a gentle aperient the night before, and given him a grain of morphine half an hour previous to the operation, he was laid on a table with his head near a window, with a mattress under him. I stood on his right side, and one assistant on each side of the table, provided with nothing more than an ordinary pocket case of instruments, sponge, water, &c. I commenced the incision by cutting down to the solid tumour, extending from the tragus of the ear to within one inch of the centre of the chin, being as far as the tumour reached in that direction. Another incision decussated the first at right angles, each being seven inches long, being just the diameter of the tumour. I then carefully dissected the skin from over the tumour, in four angular flaps, cutting as close as possible to the skin, leaving all muscles &c., with the flaps. I then began to dissect the tumour from above, near the malar bone, keeping close to the tumour. Inwardly, there was nothing but the lining membrane of the cheek left, as the teeth were all gone. I next cut through the jawbone at the chin, and found it (as I had anticipated) soft and brittle. I next dissected out the process of the tumour which extended under the left side of the throat and

over the trachea. I had frequently to stop to restrain the hemorrhage. The small vessels were generally secured by torsion, and the wound cleansed of blood, and the discharge from minute vessels restrained by the application of a solution of kreosote, one part to fifty of water, (an application which I use in many surgical cases to advantage.) I now dissected the tumour from the carotid artery and jugular vein; the principal part of the parotid gland being involved in the tumour, it had to be removed. Dissecting round and leaving the principal branch of the internal maxillary artery and the temporal artery unharmed, I sought for the inferior maxillary artery and vein, to take them up before they were cut; the vein was anterior to the artery and very large, being about the size of a turkey quill. I put a ligature round it close to the tumour, and cut it, to give room to search for the maxillary artery, but as soon as I cut it, the blood regurgitated from the jugular vein as thick as a quill, and the patient being much exhausted, fainted. We then had to restrain the hemorrhage with a sponge, wetted in a solution of kreosote, till he was resuscitated by proper stimulants. This vein retracted and could not be secured till the tumour was removed, or part of it at least. I then at one stroke of the scalpel, took off so much of the tumour as was dissected loose, and cut through the maxillary artery, which had been drawn so far out of its proper place by the tumour, that it retracted as soon as bisected, and was so contiguous to the carotid, and such a profusion of blood, that securing these vessels was a most difficult part of the operation. These secured, I proceeded to dissect out the balance of the tumour with the jaw bone.

"I cut through the bone again at the neck of the condyloid process. The dissection completed, the wound was washed out with kreosote solution, and the flaps brought together and secured by the interrupted suture covered with a fold of patent lint, and surmounted by a plaster of simple cerate, then a compress of raw cotton to fill the vacancy and keep the integuments in juxta position with the parts underneath secured with appropriate bandages, and put him to bed and gave him a little wine and water occasionally. During the operation and afterwards, we gave him paregoric, hartshorn, and spirits of cinnamon. In three hours he recovered from exhaustion, and reaction took place with considerable fever and some hemorrhage. I allayed his fever with cold water, and arrested the hemorrhage by kreosote solution and a compress. In three days he could walk about, being free from pain, and able to eat and talk. I left him in charge of Doctor Davidson and Hall. Hemorrhage took place pretty freely on or about the eighth day, from rubbing the wound, and probably tearing away some ligature, but this was even of benefit, as it prevented or restrained all inflammation.

"I visited him five weeks afterwards, and found him able to walk about the yard; with good appetite and spirits, and the wound quite healed up. There is quite a chasm instead of an under jaw. After all the blood was washed out of the tumour it weighed three-quarters of a pound. Query, would a strict depleting course and antiphlogistic treatment with a seton drawn through the tumour at an earlier period, or taking up the inferior maxillary artery, have succeeded in arresting the pain and growth of the tumour?"—*West. Journ. of Med and Phys. Sciences*, July, 1838.

Wound of the Stomach.—The following "case of Recovery from a wound in the Stomach," related in a recent No. of a cotemporary (*Western Journ. Med. and Phys. Sciences*, April, 1838,) is almost enough to make one a believer in destiny. The recovery from the wound is sufficiently surprising, but recovery after such treatment as the patient was subjected to, is nothing short of miraculous. We give the case in the words of the narrator.

"An Indian received a stab in Natchez, on the 24th December, 1837. Six days elapsed before I saw him, during which period he walked to Rodney, which is thirty miles from Natchez. On the 30th of December I visited him, and found, upon examination, a wound of four inches long, a little below and to the left of the scrobiculus cordis. Protruding from the wound, there presented a tumour, which, upon first view, I thought was a portion of the bowels;

but upon further inspection, I discovered that it was most probably omentum. The external surface of this mass was very vascular, and in a state of suppuration. There was so strong a demonstration of sphacelus in the tumour, that I determined upon its removal by ligature. Accordingly the ligature was drawn pretty tight about the tumour, close to the abdomen. In a short time after the application of the ligature I returned, and found him very ill. Incessant vomiting, small, rapid pulse, cold and clammy skin, indicated the necessity of removing the ligature. The knife was then resorted to for the removal of the protruding mass; but upon cutting into it, I found that a portion of the stomach constituted a part of the tumour. I carefully separated the already dead parts of the tumour from that which was not in a state of gangrene. In doing so, I had to remove a portion of the stomach. The stomach was secured by a ligature, and confined within the lips of the external wound. The wound was then stitched, and dressed with adhesive plaster.

"On the 31st, I found him prostrated—with cold skin, feeble pulse, nausea, and constipated bowels. The external wound, and that portion of the stomach which was perceptible through the wound, were considerably inflamed, but of a healthy aspect. Ordered him a solution of Epsom salts, with spirits nit. dulc. and tinct. opii camph.

"January 1.—Some fever to-day, with nausea; his bowels were opened by the solution which he took yesterday. The external wound is suppurating. The edges of the wounded stomach very red, with slight suppuration.

"2d.—Free suppuration from the wound—appearances of granulation upon the thickened edges of the wounded stomach.

"On the 5th of January, the ligature which secured the stomach came away. There is a firm adhesion of the stomach to the peritoneum along the wound.

"10th.—The wound in the integuments nearly closed by granulations. He is recovering rapidly; appetite is good, and bowels regular. On the 15th of January, he rose from his bed, the wound being almost entirely cicatrized; his appetite, digestion, and other functions of nutritive, as well as animal life, in a normal state."

Dr. S. & G. H. White's Lunatic Asylum at Hudson, New York.—We learn that during the year 1838, ninety-eight patients have enjoyed the benefits of this institution. Sixty have been admitted during the year, and thirty-eight were remaining at the close of 1837.

The whole number of recent cases,	-	-	-	30
" chronic "	-	-	-	65
" intemperate	-	-	-	3
				98

Of the recent cases, 15 recovered, 5 convalescent, 5 improving,
1 unimproved, 4 died, - - - - - 30

Of the chronic cases, 9 recovered, 6 convalescent, 21 much im-
proved, 15 improving, 10 stationary, 4 died, - - - - - 65

Intemperate, 2 reformed, 1 unreformed, - - - - - 3
98

Remaining, January 1, 1839, 43 patients, to wit:—Chronic cases 33, recent do. 10.

Since the opening of this institution, a period of eight years and a half, four hundred and ten patients have been admitted.

Family worship has been continued during the past year, daily, with beneficial effects, which all the quiet patients have the privilege of enjoying.

Massachusetts General Hospital.—We have before us the Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of this very useful Institution, for the year 1838.

The number of patients admitted from January 1, 1838 to January 1, 1839, was as follows:

Patients paying board,	Males, 153,	Females, 52,	Total, 205
Do. do. do. part of time,	" 24,	" 18,	" 42
Do. entirely free,	" 48,	" 85,	" 133
	<hr/> 225	<hr/> 155	<hr/> 380

Discharged during the same period—

Well,	Males, 107,	Females, 67,	Total, 174
Much relieved,	" 38	" 28	" 66
Relieved,	" 32	" 23	" 55
Not relieved,	" 20	" 28	" 48
Died,	" 23	" 12	" 35
Eloped,	" 3	" 0	" 3
Unfit,	" 3	" 0	" 3
	<hr/> 226	<hr/> 158	<hr/> 384

Proportion of deaths to whole number, 1 in 11.

The average population was 43.2.

The average foreign population 15.1.

The average stay of ward-paying patients, about 3 4-5 weeks; that of free patients, about 5 7-8 weeks.

Of the free patients, more than one-third were female domestics, and rather more than one-sixth labourers, of whom one-half were Irish.

The weekly cost of supporting each patient was \$5 38.

The able physician and superintendent of the McLean Asylum reports that the whole number of patients remaining in the house at the commencement of the year 1838, was—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
	49	37	86
There have been received during the year,	<hr/> 79	<hr/> 59	<hr/> 138
Total enjoying the benefits of the Asylum,	128	96	224
During the year have been discharged—			

	Total.	Males.	Females.	Old cases.	Recent cases, i. e. of under 1 year before admission.
Recovered,	74	46	28	16	58
Much improved,	2	2	0	2	0
Improved,	7	4	3	7	0
Not improved,	13	5	8	13	0
Died,	12	6	6	6	6
Eloped,	0	0	0	0	0
Unfit,	2	1	1	0	0
After insufficient trial,	21	6	15	11	10
Total discharged,	<hr/> 131	<hr/> 70	<hr/> 61	<hr/> 55	<hr/> 74
Remaining, Jan. 1, 1839,		58	35	Total,	93

The following is the proportion of recoveries:—

Of all the recent cases discharged,	-	-	-	78 1-8 per cent.
Of all old cases,	-	-	-	26 "
Of all cases, recent and old,	-	-	-	56 "
Of recent cases, exclusive of those who have died, or have been prematurely removed,	-	-	-	100 "
Of old cases, exclusive, &c.	-	-	-	40 "
Of all cases, exclusive, &c.	-	-	-	75 1-2 "

Of the class reported as having had an insufficient trial, 10 were much improved, 7 were improved, and 4 were not improved at the date of their discharge.

Dr. Bell confidently believes that almost all these would have been restored, had it been in the power of friends to have given them an adequate trial.

Philadelphia Medical Society. By request we insert the following:—

Extract from the minutes of the Philadelphia Medical Society.

Resolved, That all discoveries or improvements in medicine or surgery should be freely promulgated through the appropriate channels of medical information for the advancement of medical science and for the good of mankind, and that the appropriation of such discoveries or improvements by their authors, to their exclusive pecuniary emolument by the taking out of Patents or otherwise, is at variance with those principles of liberality and beneficence which should distinguish the medical character.

Ordered to be published; 27th March 1839.

HENRY KEIM Jr., *Rec. Secretary.*

University of Pennsylvania.—Four hundred and two medical students matriculated in this school the past session. The number of graduates was 158.

Transylvania University.—The number of students in the Medical Department of Transylvania University during the session 1838—39 was 211, and at a commencement held on the 11th March, 1839, fifty-one received the degree of Doctor of Medicine.

This school has been recently endowed by the councils of the city of Lexington with the sum of forty-five thousand dollars, which will be appropriated to the erection of a new Hall and to the increase of the Library, apparatus and anatomical preparations, &c.

It affords us extreme pleasure to record this example of liberality, which stands out in strong contrast with the mean, trading spirit displayed by the council of another school. (See preceding No. of this Journal, p. 524.)

University of Maryland.—The cause of the Regents of this University vs. the Trustees, has been decided by the Court of Appeals in favour of the former. The Medical Department must consequently be reorganized.

Dartmouth College.—From the catalogue of the officers and students of this college, issued in September last, it appears that the number of medical students at that time was 78.

Medical College of Georgia.—The class the past session numbered 60, and at the commencement held 2d March, 1839, twelve were graduated doctors in medicine.

Geneva College.—The number of graduates in Medicine in this college was in 1835, six; in 1836, eight; in 1836, five; in 1838, seventeen.

Louisville Medical Institute.—The catalogue of the class during the session of 1838—39 shows the number of students to have been 120.

New Works.—Mr. GEORGE ADLARD, of New York, announces as preparing for publication "Medical and Physiological Commentaries by Martyn Paine, M. D.;" also a translation by Dr. Stewart, of the work of Dr. Berton, on the diseases of children, from the period of dentition to puberty.

THE
AMERICAN JOURNAL
OF THE
MEDICAL SCIENCES.

COLLABORATORS.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>ELISHA BARTLETT, M. D. <i>Professor of Pathological Anatomy in the Berkshire Medical Institution.</i></p> <p>JACOB BIGELOW, M. D. <i>Professor of Materia Medica in Harvard University, Boston.</i></p> <p>A. BRIGHAM, M. D. <i>of Hartford, Connecticut.</i></p> <p>N. CHAPMAN, M. D. <i>Professor of the Institutes and Practice of Physic and Clinical Practice in the University of Pennsylvania.</i></p> <p>B. H. COATES, M. D. <i>one of the Physicians to the Pennsylvania Hospital.</i></p> <p>REYNELL COATES, M. D. <i>of Philadelphia.</i></p> <p>D. FRANCIS CONDIE, M. D. <i>of Philadelphia.</i></p> <p>WILLIAM P. DEWEES, M. D. <i>Late Professor of Midwifery in the University of Pennsylvania.</i></p> <p>S. HENRY DICKSON, M. D. <i>Professor of the Institutes and Practice of Medicine in the Medical College of the State of South Carolina.</i></p> <p>GOUVERNEUR EMERSON, M. D. <i>of Philadelphia.</i></p> <p>CHARLES EVANS, M. D. <i>Attending Physician to the Friends' Asylum, Frankford.</i></p> <p>JOHN D. FISHER, M. D. <i>of Boston.</i></p> <p>E. GEDDINGS, M. D. <i>Professor of Pathology and Medical Jurisprudence in the Medical College of the State of South Carolina.</i></p> <p>WILLIAM GIBSON, M. D. <i>Professor of Surgery in the University of Pennsylvania.</i></p> <p>R. E. GRIFFITH, M. D. <i>Professor of Medicine in the University of Virginia.</i></p> <p>THOMAS HARRIS, <i>Surgeon U. S. Navy, and one of the Surgeons of the Pennsylvania Hospital.</i></p> <p>E. HALE, M. D. <i>Physician to the Massachusetts General Hospital.</i></p> <p>GEORGE HAYWARD, M. D. <i>Professor of the Principles of Surgery and Clinical Surgery in Harvard University, Boston.</i></p> <p>C. A. LEE, M. D. <i>of New York.</i></p> <p>SAMUEL JACKSON, M. D. <i>Professor of the</i></p> | <p><i>Institutes of Medicine in the University of Pennsylvania.</i></p> <p>SAMUEL JACKSON, M. D. <i>late of Northumberland, Pennsylvania, now of Philadelphia.</i></p> <p>WILLIAM E. HORNER, M. D. <i>Professor of Anatomy in the University of Pennsylvania.</i></p> <p>VALENTINE MOTT, M. D. <i>Professor of Pathological and Operative Surgery in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York.</i></p> <p>JAMES MAC DONALD, M. D. <i>late Resident Physician to the Bloomingdale Asylum, New York.</i></p> <p>REUBEN D. MUSSEY, M. D. <i>Professor of Surgery in the Medical College of Ohio.</i></p> <p>T. D. MUTTER, M. D. <i>Lecturer on Surgery.</i></p> <p>G. W. NORRIS, M. D. <i>one of the Surgeons to the Pennsylvania Hospital.</i></p> <p>R. M. PATTERSON, M. D. <i>Late Professor of Natural Philosophy in the University of Virginia.</i></p> <p>C. W. PENNOCK, M. D. <i>one of the Physicians to the Philadelphia Hospital, Blockley.</i></p> <p>R. R. PORTER, M. D. <i>Late Resident Physician to the Friends' Asylum, Frankford.</i></p> <p>THOMAS SEWALL, M. D. <i>Professor of Anatomy and Physiology in the Columbian College, District of Columbia.</i></p> <p>ASHBEL SMITH, M. D. <i>Surgeon General of the Texian Army.</i></p> <p>NATHAN R. SMITH, <i>Professor of the Practice of Medicine in Transylvania University.</i></p> <p>THOMAS STEWARDSON, M. D. <i>one of the Physicians to the Pennsylvania Hospital.</i></p> <p>A. F. VACHE, M. D. <i>of New York.</i></p> <p>JOHN WARE, M. D. <i>Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic in Harvard University, Boston.</i></p> <p>JOHN C. WARREN, M. D. <i>Professor of Anatomy and Surgery in Harvard University, Boston.</i></p> <p>EDWARD WARREN, M. D. <i>of Boston.</i></p> <p>JOHN WATSON, M. D. <i>of New York.</i></p> <p>THOMAS H. WRIGHT, M. D. <i>Late Physician to the Baltimore Almshouse Infirmary.</i></p> |
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- EDITOR—ISAAC HAYS, M. D., *one of the Surgeons to Wills' Hospital for the Blind and Lame, &c.*

TO READERS AND CORRESPONDENTS.

The following works have been received:—

Valedictory Address to the Students in Medicine of the College of Physicians and surgeons of the University of New York. Delivered February 26th, 1839. By JOHN B. BECK, M. D. Professor of Materia Medica and Medical Jurisprudence. New York, published by the students, 1839. (From the author.)

Catalogue of the officers and students of the University of Virginia. Session of 1838-39. Richmond, 1839. (From Professor GRIFFITH.)

A Catalogue of the Officers and Students in the Medical Department of the Cincinnati College, for 1838-9. Containing the Catalogue of Graduates in Medicine for 1839. Cincinnati: 1839.

The Art of Prolonging life briefly considered. A Lecture delivered before the Athenian Institute, January, 1839. By J. PANCOAST, M. D. (From the author.)

Medical Lexicon. A new dictionary of Medical Science, containing a concise account of the various subjects and terms; with a vocabulary of synonyms in different languages, and formulæ for various official preparations, &c., second edition, with numerous modifications and additions. By ROWLEY DUNGLISON, M. D., M. A. P. S., &c. Philadelphia: 1839. Lea and Blanchard. (From the publishers.)

Isagoge in Doctrinam Morborum Chronicorum. Auctore, G. C. B. SURINGAR, M. D., &c., &c. Amstelodamæ: 1837-8, 2 vols. (From Dr. Oppenheim.)

Prospetto Statistico, Clinico, Psichiatrico, con classificazione dei recovati nel Regio Manicomio el Torino de Dottore, C. BERTOLINI. Torino: 1839. (From Dr. Oppenheim.)

Saggio di Statistico del Regio Manicomio di Torino dal 1 di Gen., 1831, al 31 dec. 1836. Del dottore G. S. BONACOSSA. Torino: 1837. (From Dr. Oppenheim.)

Catalogue of the Officers and Students of the Medical Department of Hampden Sidney College, in Richmond, Virginia. Session 1838-9. Richmond, 1839. (From Professor WARNER.)

Address delivered to the Graduates of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, April 23d 1839. By JOSEPH CARSON, M. D., Professor of Materia Medica and Pharmacy. Philadelphia: 1839. (From the author.)

Minutes of the Medical Society of Tennessee, at the tenth annual meeting, held in Nashville, May, 1839. Columbia: 1839.

Outlines of Physiology; with an Appendix on Phrenology. By P. M. ROBERT, M. D., F. R. S. &c., &c. First American Edition, revised with numerous notes. Philadelphia: Lea and Blanchard, 1839. (From the Publishers.)

The first Report of the Hospital at Mocao under the auspices of the Medical Missionary Society of China. From the quarterly term beginning 5th July, and ending 1st of October, 1838. By Rev. PETER PARKER, M. D. Canton, China: 1838. (From Dr. William B. Diver.)

Twenty-second Annual Report on the state of the Asylum for the relief of Persons deprived of their Reason. Published by direction of the Contributors. Philadelphia: 1839. (From Dr. Charles Evans.)

Journal of the Proceedings of the Medical Convention of Ohio, at its third session began and held in the city of Cleveland on the 14th and 15th days of May, 1839. Cleveland: 1839. (From Dr. G. Mendenhall, Recording Secretary.)

Proceedings of the President and Fellows of the Connecticut Medical Society in Convention, May, 1839. With a list of the Members of the Society. Hartford: 1839. (From Dr. Welch, Secretary.)

Diseases of the Uterus, a series of Clinical Lectures, delivered at the Hospital la Pitié, by M. Lisfranc, and edited by H. Pauly, M. D. Translated from the French by G. HENRY LODGE, M. D., Fellow of the Massachusetts Medical Society, &c., &c. Boston: W. D. Tickner, 1839. (From the Translator.)

The British and Foreign Medical Review, April, 1839. (In exchange.)

The Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal, April, 1839. (In exchange.)

The Medico-Chirurgical Review, April, 1839. (In exchange.)

The London Medical Gazette, March, April, and May, 1839. (In exchange.)

Zeitschrift für die Gesamnte Medicin, herausgegeben Von. J. C. FRICKS und F. W. Oppenheim. December, 1838, and January, February, March, 1839. (In exchange.)

The Select Medical Library and Eclectic Journal of Medicine, May, June, and July, 1839. (In exchange.)

Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, May, June, and July, 1839. (In exchange.)

The Medical Examiner, May, June, and July, 1839. (In exchange.)

The American Medical Library and Intelligencer, May, June, and July, 1839. (In exchange.)

The Southern Medical and Surgical Journal, May, and June, 1839. (In exchange.)

The American Journal of Dental Science, devoted to original articles, reviews and dental publications, the latest improvement in Surgical and Mechanical Dentistry, and Biographical Sketches of distinguished Dentists. New York, Vol. i. No. 1. June 1839. (In exchange.)

The New York Journal of Medicine and Surgery. Published quarterly, July, 1839, Vol. i. No. 1. (In exchange.)

CONTENTS.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

MEMOIRS AND CASES.

ART.	PAGE
I Report of Cases treated in the Wills Hospital for the Blind and Lame during the months of October, November and December, 1838, with Observations. By Isaac Hays, M. D., one of the Surgeons to the Institution.	265
II. Case of Vesico-vaginal Fistula, successfully treated by an operation. By Geo. Hayward, M. D., one of the Surgeons to the Massachusetts General Hospital.	293
III. A Case in which a portion of a Percussion Cap was extracted from the Anterior Chamber of the Eye by an Operation. Communicated by Thomas Sewall, M. D., of Washington, D. C.	298
IV. Case of Sudden Death, with Remarks on that Occurrence. By Edward Warren, M. D., of Boston, Massachusetts.	294
V. Remarks on Cholera Infantum. By Harvey Lindsley, M. D., of Washington, D. C.	301
VI. Report of Cases treated in the Baltimore Almshouse Hospital. By Samuel Annan, M. D., Senior Physician to the Institution.	314
VII. Successful Operation for the purpose of Remedying a Deformity of the Leg; consequent to a badly set Fracture. By Charles Parry, M. D. of Indianapolis, Ind.	334
VIII. Notice of the Scarlet Fever as it occurred in the Valley of Virginia and in the counties of Loudon and Fauquier in the year 1833; and of the Treatment which proved the most successful. By H. D. Magill, M. D., of Virginia.	341

MONOGRAPH.

IX. On the Principal Diseases of the Liver. By N. Chapman, M. D., Professor of the Practice of Medicine in the University of Pennsylvania.	347
--	-----

MEDICAL EDUCATION AND INSTITUTIONS.

X. The Gleanings in the East of a ci-devant Invalid, in 1838. By Valentine Mott, M. D., of New York.	367
--	-----

REVIEWS.

- XI. Outlines of the Institutes of Medicine; founded on the Philosophy of the Human Economy, in Health and in Disease. In Three Parts. Should we build facts upon facts until our pile reached the heavens, they would tumble to pieces unless they were cemented by principles.—*Rush*. By Joseph A. Gallup, M. D., 2 vols. Boston: Otis, Broaders, and Company, 1839. pp. 416 and 460, 8vo. - 375
- XII. Outlines of the Principal Diseases of Females, chiefly for the use of Students. By Fleetwood Churchill, M. D., Dublin, 1838, 8vo. pp. 402, 394
- XII. De l'Albuminurie ou Hydropsie causée par maladie des Reins: modifications de l'urine dans cet état morbide, à l'époque critique des maladies aiguës et durant le cours de quelques affections bilieuses. Par le Dr. Martin Solon, Médecin de l'Hôpital Beaujon, Agrégé à la Faculté de Paris, Professeur particulier de Matière Médicale et de Thérapeutique, Membre de l'Académie Royale de Médecine, Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur. Avec planches coloriées. Paris: 1838.
- Of Albuminuria or Dropsy caused by Disease of the Kidneys; of the altered character of the urine in this disease, and also at the crisis of acute diseases and during the course of certain bilious affections. By Dr. Martin Solon, Physician of the Hospital Beaujon, &c. Paris, 1838. - 404

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

- XIV. The Elements of Materia Medica; Comprehending the Natural History, Preparation, Properties, Composition, Effects, and Uses of Medicines. Part I. Containing the General Action and Classification of Medicines and the Mineral Materia Medica. By Jonathan Pereira, F. R. S. and L. S. &c. London: 1839. - 413
- XV. Prospetto Statistico-Clinico-Psichiatrico con Classificazione dei Ricoverati nel Regio Manicomio di Torino. Del Dottore Cipriano Bertolini, Medico Primario del pio Istituto. 8vo. pp. 205, Turin: 1839.
- Saggio di Statistica del Regio Manicomio di Torino, dal 1o di gennaio 1831, al 31 Dicembre, 1836. Del Dottore Gio. Stefano Bonaccosa, Medico Assistente di detto Manicomio. 8vo. pp. 127, Turin: 1837. - 414
- XVI. On the Nature and Treatment of the Diseases of the Heart; with some new Views on the Physiology of the Circulation. By James Wardrop, M. D., &c. Part I. 8vo. pp. 100. London: 1837. - 419
- XVII. Isagoge in Doctrinam Morborum Chronicorum. Auctore Ger. Conv. Bern. Suringar, Medicinæ, Chirurgiæ et artis obstetriæ, Doctore, et Medicinæ practicæ in Schola Clinica et in illustri Amstelodamensium Athenæo, Professore. 8vo. 2 vols. pp. 210—250. Amsterdam, 1837.
- Introduction to the Study of Chronic Diseases. By G. C. B. Suringar, M. D., Professor of the Practice of Medicine in the Clinical School and Athenæum of Amsterdam. - 422
- XVIII. Annual Report of the Interments in the city and county of New York for the Year 1838, with accompanying Remarks. By Henry G. Dunnel, City Inspector. New York, 1839. - 423
- XIX. De Fungo Genu nec non de Tuberculis in hoc morbo inventis. Dissertatio, quam pro Summis in Medicina et Chirurgia honoribus rite capacendis conscriptis ac publice defendit Franc. Josephus Lederle, Badensis. Anno, MDCCCXXXVIII. 8vo. pp. 81. Petropoli: 1838.
- An Inaugural Dissertation on Fungus of the Knee and on the Tubercles, which occur in that disease. By F. J. Lederle, of Baden. - 425
- XX. A Treatise on the Diseases produced by Onanism, Masturbation, Self-pollution, and other excesses. By L. Deslandes, M. D., &c. Translated from the French, with many additions. 12mo. pp. 252. Boston, 1838. - 426

ART.	PAGE
XXI. A Treatise on the Diseases of the Eye, and its Appendages. By Richard Middlemore, M. R. C. S., Surgeon to the Birmingham Eye Infirmary. London: 1835. 2 vols. 8vo. pp. 800 and 844.	
Traité de l'Ophthalmie, la Cataracte et l'Amaurose, pour servir de supplément au Traité des Maladies des Yeux de Weller. Par J. Sichel, M. D. et C. &c. &c. Paris: 1837. pp. 750, 8vo. avec 4 planches coloriées.	
Manual Pratique d'Ophthalmologie, au Traité des Maladies des Yeux. Par Victor Stoeber, M. D. &c. Bruxelles: 1837. pp. 389, 12mo. planches 3.	
The Principles and Practice of Ophthalmic Surgery. Comprising the Anatomy, Physiology, and Pathology of the Eye, with the Treatment of its diseases. By Benjamin Travers, Esq., F. R. S. &c., and Joseph Henry Green, Esq., F. R. S. &c. Edited by Alexander Cooper Lee. London: 1839. pp. 242, 12mo.	
Cours d'Ophthalmologie, au Traité complet des Maladies de l'œil, Professaé publiquement à l'Ecole pratique de Médecine de Paris. Par M. Rognetta, E. Med. et C. &c. &c. Paris: 1839. pp. 468, 8vo.	
Lectures on Diseases of the Eye. By John Morgan, F. L. S., Surgeon to Guy's Hospital, and Lecturer on Surgery, at that Institution. Illustrated by 18 coloured plates. London: 1839. pp. 221.	- 427
XXII. Medical Lexicon. A New Dictionary of Medical Science, containing a concise Account of the various Subjects and Terms; with a vocabulary of Synonymes in Different Languages, and Formulæ for various Official and Empirical Preparations, &c. 2d edition, with numerous modifications and additions. By Robley Dunglison, M. D., M. A., P. S., &c. Philadelphia: Lea & Blanchard, 1839. pp. 821, 8vo.	- 429
XXIII. Transactions of the Medical Society of the State of New York, Vol. iv. Part 2. Albany: 1839. pp. 56, 8vo.	
Journal of the Proceedings of the Medical Convention of Ohio, at its Third Session, begun and held in the City of Cleaveland, on the 14th and 15th days of May, 1839. Cleaveland: 1839. pp. 48, 8vo.	
Minutes of the Medical Society of Tennessee, at the Tenth Annual Meeting, held in Nashville, May, 1839. Columbia: 1839. pp. 44, 8vo.	
Proceedings of the President and Fellows of the Connecticut Medical Society in Convention, May, 1839, with a List of the Members of the Society. Hartford: 1839. pp. 16, 8vo.	- 429
XXIV. On the Methods of Acquiring Knowledge. An Introductory Lecture to the Course of the Institutes of Medicine, for the Session 1838-39. Delivered in the University of Pennsylvania, Nov. 6, 1838. By Samuel Jackson, M. D. Philadelphia: 1838. pp. 32, 8vo.	
Valedictory Address to the Students in Medicine of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of the University of New York. Delivered Feb. 28, 1839. By John B. Beck, M. D., Prof. Mat. Med. and Med. Juris. New York: 1839. pp. 24, 8vo.	
An address delivered to the Students of the Louisville Medical Institute, in the presence of the citizens of the place, at the commencement of the Second Session of the Institute, Nov. 13, 1838. By Joshua B. Flint, M. D., Professor of Surgery. Louisville, Ken.; 1838. pp. 31, 8vo.	
An Annual Address to the Candidates for Degrees and Licenses in the Medical Institution of Yale College, Feb. 26. 1839. By Thomas Miner, M. D., Member of the Board of Examination, and late President of the Connecticut Medical Society. Published at the request of the Class. New Haven: 1839. pp. 20, 8vo.	
An Address delivered to the Graduates of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, April 23, 1839. By Joseph Carson, M. D. Prof. Mat. Med. and Pharm. Philadelphia: 1839. pp. 16, 8vo.	- 431
XXV. Outlines of Physiology; with an Appendix on Phrenology. By P. M. Roget, M. D. &c. First American edition, revised, with numerous notes. Philadelphia: 1839. pp. 516, 8vo.	- 432

SUMMARY

OF THE

IMPROVEMENTS AND DISCOVERIES IN THE

MEDICAL SCIENCES.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

GENERAL ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY.

	PAGE		PAGE
1. Case of Anæsthesia (Loss of Sensation) in the course of distribution of the Fifth Nerve with Remarks. By Dr. Romberg.	433	5. An account of some Experiments on the Blood, in connection with the theory of Respiration. By John Davy, M. D.	438
2. Malformation of the Placenta. By Dr. Durner.	436	6. Diurnal variations of the pulse. By Professor Guy.	438
3. Transfusion of Blood. By Professor Bischoff.	437	7. Products of Respiration at Different Periods of the Day. By Charles T. Coathupe, Esq.	439
4. On the Decussation of Fibres at the junction of the Medulla Spi-			
		nalis with the Medulla Oblongata. By John Hilton, Esq.	437

PATHOLOGICAL ANATOMY AND GENERAL PATHOLOGY.

8. Perforation of the Stomach from Morbid Causes. By Alfred S. Taylor.	440	9. Disorders of the Brain connected with Diseased Kidneys. By Dr. William Addison.	442
--	-----	--	-----

MATERIA MEDICA AND GENERAL THERAPEUTICS.

10. Employment of Sulphate of Quinine in the form of ointment for the cure of malignant intermittants. By Dr. Antonini.	445	11. Formulæ for Syrups of Copaiba. By M. Emile Mouchon.	445
		12. On Remedial Powers of Croton Oil. By G. G. Sigmond, M. D.	445

SPECIAL PATHOLOGY AND SPECIAL THERAPEUTICS.

13. Puerperal Fever. By Professor Oslander.	447	17. Case of Paralysis of the first and second Branches of the Sensitive Root of the fifth pair of Nerves, with remarks. By Dr. J. Corrigan, M. D.	
14. Belladonna Plaster in Nervous Palpitations, Irritable Bladder, &c. By Dr. Simpson.	450	18. Pathology and Treatment of Phlegmasia Dolens. By John Burne, M. D.	455
15. External Application of Colchicum in Rheumatism. By Dr. Thomas Laycock.	450	19. Treatment of Quinsy by Scarification. By M. Girardin.	459
15. Lytta in Vesical Paralysis. By Thomas Laycock.	450		

	PAGE		PAGE
20. Use of Caustic Issues in Phthisis Pulmonalis. By M. Bricheteau. - - -	460	Hospital, Edinburgh. By Wm. Wood, F. R. S. E. - - -	463
21. Inflammation of the Umbilical Vein in Infants. By M. Duplay. -	461	25. Extent of Prevalence and Mortality of the Epidemic Scarlet Fever in some of the Public Institutions of Edinburgh. By Wm. Wood, F. R. S. E. - -	474
22. Case of Laryngitis, complicated with Bronchocele, in which the external application of Croton Oil was successfully employed. By A. Campbell, M. D. -	462	26. On the Treatment of Scarlatina Anginosa. By Dr. Hamilton. - - -	475
23. Epidemic Scarlet Fever as it occurred in Edinburgh. -	462	27. On the Scarlet Fever Epidemic in Edinburgh in 1835-36. By Charles Sidey, Esq. - -	478
24. Account of Scarlet Fever as it occurred in George Heriot's			

SURGERY.

28. Fracture of the Acetabulum. By Dr. Charles Lendrick. -	481	Lining Membrane of the Tympanum.—Use of the Acetate of Lead. By Mr. Arnott. -	491
29. On the Pathology of Burns and Scalds. By Samuel Cooper, Esq. - - -	481	34. Congenital Club-Foot. By Dr. Krauss. - - -	491
30. Complete Ankylosis of the five superior cervical vertebræ to each other, and complete dislocation backwards of the fifth from the sixth; without fracture. By Mr. S. S. Stanley. - -	484	35. Case of Ranula in which the left submaxillary gland was extirpated. By J. G. Malcomson, Esq. - - -	493
31. On the varieties and Treatment of Fractures of the Ribs. By J. F. Malgaigne. - -	485	36. Suetin's Immovable Fracture-apparatus. By Dr. Fricke. -	495
32. On the application of Raw Cotton to Erysipelatous Surfaces. By M. Reynaud. -	490	37. Case of Extensive Aneurism by Anastomosis, in a child ten months old, involving the branches of the Temporal and posterior Auricular Arteries, treated successfully by the Twisted Suture. By Dr. J. MacLachlan. -	495
33. Deafness from Disease of the			

OPHTHALMOLOGY.

38. On Injuries of the Eye by Percussion Caps. By Samuel Crompton, Esq. - - -	498	39. Iris Sympathetica. By Mr. Mackenzie. - - -	500
---	-----	--	-----

MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE AND TOXICOLOGY.

40. Child at Birth of Enormous Size. By Mr. J. D. Owens. -	504	is produced by Carbonic Acid Gas. By Dr. Golding Bird. -	505
41. On the manner in which death			

MIDWIFERY.

42. Cartilaginous Condition of the Neck of the Uterus—Incision of this part to facilitate delivery. By Dr. Burdach. - - -	507	43. Prolapsus of the Uterus—Incision into the Neck of the Organ—Cure. By Dr. Gruhn. -	507
---	-----	---	-----

MEDICAL STATISTICS.

	PAGE		PAGE
44. Statistics of Patients Affected with Calculus, admitted into the Hospital of St. Mary at Moscow. By Dr. De Roos. - -	508	ter of Births, Marriages, and Bills of Mortality in the Prussian dominions, during the year 1836. Officially reported by the Government. - - -	509
45. Prussian Bills of Mortality.—Results gleaned from the Regis-			

AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE.

On the Value of the Catroptic examination of the Eye as a means of Diagnosis. By I. Hays, M. D.	513	Albany Medical College and the Thomeonians. - - -	523
Note on Extraction of Foreign Bodies from the Eye. By I. Hays, M. D. - - -	514	Remarks on Enlargement of the Tonsils, attended by certain Deformities of the Chest. By J. Mason Warren, M. D. - -	523
Cases of Negro Poisoning. By A. Somervail, M. D. - - -	514	Convention for the Revision of the Pharmacopœia. - - -	527
Case of Exostosis of Upper Jaw, successfully treated by B. A. Rodrigues, M. D. - - -	516	Cincinnati College. - - -	527
Notice of the Cape May Albino. By Dr. Samuel L. Marcy. -	517	University of Virginia. - -	527
Abstraction of the Uterus after Delivery. By John H. Griscom, M. D. - - -	518	Medical Department of Hampden Sidney College, in Richmond, Va. - - -	528
Successful Treatment of Erysipelas by Raw Cotton. By Dr. F. M. Robertson. - - -	521	Albany Medical College. - -	528
Case illustrative of the Etiology of Spontaneous Amputation of the Limbs of the Fœtus in Utero. By A. H. Buchanan, M. D. -	522	American Journal of Dental Science, Devoted to Original Articles, Reviews of Dental Publications, the Latest Improvements in Surgical and Mechanical Dentistry, and Biographical Sketches of Distinguished Dentists. -	528
Fresh Vaccine Virus. By Dr. C. A. Lee. - - -	522	The New York Journal of Medicine and Surgery. - - -	528
Dr. Bartlett's Case of Double Consciousness. - - -	522	Memorial to Congress for the Enactment of a Law for the Transmission of Vaccine Virus by Mail Free of Postage. -	528
		Forthcoming Work. - - -	528

ERRATA.

- Page 268, line 15 from top, for "subject," read "*subjected*."
 " 281, last line, for "1833," read "1823."
 " 282, line 22 from top, for "is not to be," read "*cannot be*."
 " 287, " 16 " for "renewed," read "*removed*."
 " 287, " 22 " for "set," read "*sat*."

THE
AMERICAN JOURNAL
OF THE
MEDICAL SCIENCES.

ARTICLE I. *Report of Cases treated in the Wills Hospital for the Blind and Lame during the months of October, November and December, 1838, with Observations.* By ISAAC HAYS, M. D., one of the Surgeons to the Institution.

OPHTHALMIC surgery, it must be conceded, has not been sufficiently cultivated in this country. There are, unquestionably, a limited number of practitioners among us who are well versed in the subject; but the great mass of the profession are entirely unacquainted with its comprehensiveness—the variety of affections it embraces, and consequently they can have but a faint conception of its importance; it is to them, in short, a complete terra incognita. We have been told by a professor of surgery in a school of high standing, that he found three lectures ample for teaching every thing of consequence relative to the diseases of the eyes, and in none of our schools, so far as we can learn, are these affections considered of sufficient moment to require half a dozen lectures to be devoted to them. There is not, moreover, with one solitary exception, we believe, a private course delivered in this country, on the subject of these diseases.

Very different is the estimation in which Ophthalmic surgery is held in Europe. In the principal German and Italian universities, in the university of Glasgow and in the Birmingham Royal School of Medicine and Surgery, the teaching of this branch is made the province of a distinct professorship; and numerous independent courses are delivered at the various hospitals, infirmaries and dispensaries established for the relief of those afflicted with diseases of the eyes.

As to the extent of the subject, some idea may be formed from the fact, No. XLVIII.—August, 1839.

that Professor Beer, of Vienna, occupied in his course of instruction ten months, giving five or six lectures weekly, and this on the practical part of the subject alone, Prochaska being professor of general Ophthalmology in the same school.

With the hope of drawing attention to this neglected department of our science we propose to report some of the more interesting cases which offer in the Wills Hospital. This hospital is restricted to the reception of patients affected with diseases of the eyes or lameness, but the former class compose by far the greater number.*

It is unquestionably in such institutions that these diseases can be studied with most advantage, and we hope in these reports, especially should our colleagues unite in the plan, that most of the forms of disease to which the eye is subject will eventually be illustrated. These are of course numerous, since this organ embraces in its structure nearly all the tissues found in the other parts of the frame, and at least two which exist no where else.

During the last quarter of the year 1838, the cases treated in the hospital were of a less varied character than usual, but some of them were exceedingly interesting. These last we will now briefly notice, without giving a diary of each case which might be considered tedious.

AMAUROSIS.—This form of blindness may result from any organic disease of the retina, optic nerve, anterior tuberculi quadrigemini, the corpus geniculabum externum or tuber cenerium; from tumours in their neighbourhood pressing upon them and thus preventing the performance of their functions; from various disorders of other organs causing congestion in these parts or affecting them sympathetically, as the suppression of habitual discharges, worms in the intestines, derangement of the stomach, &c., &c.; and finally from certain lesions of some of the branches of the fifth, third, and sixth pairs of nerves, of the great sympathetic and probably also of the spinal marrow. It is manifest then that the forms of this disease are exceedingly numerous and the importance of ascertaining the particular one in every case will be readily estimated, since some of them are entirely incurable, and it is cruel to subject patients so afflicted to severe remedies, which must prove unavailing. Whilst those which are remediable, are of so different a character as to require various and even opposite modes of treatment, and the appropriate one can solely be determined by a knowledge of the pathological state upon which the disease depends. Unfortunately in the present state of the science this is not always possible, but very generally, a careful examination into the history of the case and of the existing symptoms will furnish us with the desired information.

One of the most interesting cases of amaurosis treated in the Hospital was the following, the result apparently of *nervous asthenia* of the retina.

* For an interesting account of this hospital by Dr. Littell see this Journal for November 1835, Vol. XVII, p. 89.

Case. Amaurosis—Employment of Strychnine—Cure. Harriet Taylor, aged 12, was admitted November 10th, with amaurosis of right eye; vision in left eye good. Her mother stated that she had first noticed her daughter's defect of sight about three years ago, since which period it had been growing gradually worse. For four months the right eye, to use the patient's own expression, had been "quite dark." She cannot distinguish a candle with it, though she has a faint perception of the light. The patient has light hair; complexion fair; irides gray, contracting on exposure to light; pupil of right eye rather more dilated than that of left; is sometimes troubled with headache. We neglected to examine the eye catoptrically.

Ordered a dose of sulphate of magnesia at bed time, and the next morning a few drops of the following to be applied to her right eye. R. strychnin. gr. ij; acid. acet. ʒj. aq. puræ ʒj. M.

November 11th. Noon. Medicine has purged her actively. The nurse had applied the solution to the eye early in the morning, and the patient finding her vision much improved, afterwards, in the absence of the nurse had twice used it herself. Says she can now see pretty well with her right eye. Upon trial found she could read with that eye, the other being carefully closed with my fingers, a newspaper which happened to be at hand. Says there is some cloudiness of right eye. Continue collyrium.

12th. Sight improved. She read with either eye almost equally well, the other being closed, a proof sheet of this Journal, which we had taken for the purpose of trial. Cloud before right eye diminished but not entirely gone. Continue collyrium.

13th. Cloudiness of right eye entirely gone; sees perfectly well with it; is not sensible of any difference in the power of vision of her two eyes. She was discharged November 17th, and went to her mother who resides a few miles in the country.

Remarks. The rapidity of the cure in this case led us at first to suspect deception; on inquiry we could not discover any ground for such suspicion. The friend who had recommended the patient to our care informed us that her mother was a respectable, industrious widow, who supported by her labour several children of which the patient was the oldest; that the daughter was intelligent, active and obliging and her aid was of so much importance to her mother, that he had interested himself to have her relieved from her infirmity, which much lessened her usefulness. As to the excellence of her sight, when she was discharged the hospital, we verified this in a way that admitted of no deception.

P. S. We have this day, (June 11th, 1839,) had the gratification to learn from the friend who sent this patient to us, that the cure has been permanent. He informs us, that he sees Harriet frequently and that ten days since he inquired particularly of her respecting her sight, and was assured by her that it was perfect.

A very interesting case of congestive amaurosis was treated in the hospital,

but as the result is not yet determined, we will merely state at present in relation to it, that it occurred in a gentleman fifty-eight years of age, and resulted from the suppression of an habitual hemorrhoidal discharge. The patient was improving under the use of active cathartics and the repeated application of leeches to the anus; when he was attacked with rheumatism, to which he was subject, of so severe a character as to require a treatment exclusively directed to its removal. His health was so much impaired by this complaint that it was thought advisable he should return home to the country to recruit.

Case. Amaurosis—Various treatment—Vision not improved.—Louisa Dewey, *stat.* 24; seamstress. This patient had been admitted into the house on the 29th of August. She attributed her affection to sewing late at night, and at times all night, by gas-light, during the preceding winter and spring. She had been repeatedly blistered, and had strychnine applied to the raw surface thereby produced, and been subject to other treatment without benefit.

When she came under our care, October 1st, her health was excellent; her only complaint was of imperfect vision. She was a brunette, with dark hair; irides brown, inactive; pupils dilated, clear black; three distinct images of a flame to be seen in them; sclerotica free from injected vessels. It was difficult to determine what was the exact degree of vision enjoyed by this patient; she seemed to me disposed to exaggerate her blindness, and rarely admitted that any improvement resulted from the remedies employed, even when those about her thought that she exhibited marked evidences of improved vision. We can hardly suspect her, however, of intentional deception, as she submitted cheerfully to the severest remedies, and repeatedly requested that she might be discharged, so soon as we gave up all hope of benefitting her sight. We had no reason, however, to believe that the improvement, if any, was permanent.

The means employed in this case, were various. Our first impression was, that the loss of sight was the result of an asthenic condition of the retina; but the failure of the appropriate remedies, under the direction of our predecessor, led to the suspicion that there might exist some congestion; topical depletion was therefore employed—as cups to the head, and leeches to the temples. With the same view, numerous derivatives were ordered: among which may be mentioned a seton in the back of the neck, mustard pedeluvia, purgatives, &c. The few occasions on which she admitted herself to be benefited by any remedy, was after the first application of leeches to the temples; their subsequent employment however was of no service.

Failing in these remedies, we determined to treat it as a case of asthenia of the retina. With this view cauterization of the cornea, with nit. argent., as recommended by Sanson, was tried; then solution of strychnine dropped in the eye, and finally an alterative treatment, all with the same result. When we

turned her over to the care of our successor, her sight had not improved, and we find by the register, that she was discharged January 30th, 1839, as incurable.

Remarks. The want of success in the treatment of this case is not readily to be explained. The good health of the patient, and the recent occurrence of the disease would seem to have promised a more favourable result. Our first impressions relative to the nature of the case, viz, that it was one of asthenia of the retina, were probably correct: nevertheless an energetic treatment directed by this view was wholly unavailing.

When we took charge of the hospital on the 1st of May, 1839, we found in it a case remarkably similar to the preceding in its main features, but which terminated more favourably. The patient Susan Smith, was a seamstress, *ætat.* 22, fair complexion, light hair and light blue irides. She had been admitted April 3d, by our colleague Dr. Fox. She was treated by purgatives, shower bath and moxas to the temples, and was discharged cured May 29th.* She then read for us promptly, several verses in a diamond print Bible.

The following case, though it occurred in private practice, it may be allowable to introduce here, as it furnishes a marked example of congestive amaurosis and of the benefits of a proper treatment.

Case. Congestive Amaurosis—Depletion—Cure. Margaret M'Quid *ætat.* 19, a robust Irish girl, a servant in a family in West Philadelphia, applied to me February 18th, 1839. She stated that she had lost the sight of her left eye suddenly, two days previously whilst washing clothes; she had at that time intense headache which still continues. Her bowels are open; menstruates regularly; eyes natural in appearance—three images of a flame visible in the pupil. Irises light blue, moderately active; pupil mean size. Vision with right eye perfect, with left she cannot distinguish any object, not even a lighted candle, though she has a faint perception of the light it emits. She is of full habit; pulse active. I ordered her to be bled to the extent of sixteen or eighteen ounces and to take the following pills. R. calomel pp. gr. viij; pulv. rhei gr. x; G. aloes gr. ij. M. Ft. pilul. No. iv.

20th. The patient had neglected to attend to these prescriptions until last evening. The headache had been promptly relieved by the bleeding. Pills have not operated; there is a slight improvement in vision. Ordered magnes. sulph. ʒj.

22d. Medicine has operated freely. Can see now pretty well the smallest objects, though they all appear as through a thin mist. Ordered a blister behind right ear, and senna and manna tea.

27th. Vision quite restored. Intends returning to her place.

* We abstain from giving the details of this case, which we hope will be furnished hereafter by Dr. Fox, under whose care the patient was admitted.

I met this patient in the street ten or twelve days subsequently, and learned from her that her sight was as perfect as ever.

CATARACT. Of this disease, we shall relate but two cases; one of capsulo-lenticular, the other of capsular (congenital) cataract.

Case. Capsulo-lenticular Cataract—Adhesion of Iris to Capsule at several points.—Susan Clay. This woman, when I took charge of the house, was recovering from an operation for cataract, which had been performed on both eyes, by my predecessor. She was 63 years of age, short, very fat, flesh soft and flabby. She complained much of weakness; pulse feeble; had no appetite, and labored under the usual symptoms of derangement of the digestive organs. She was ordered the following pills. *R.* pulv. rhei ʒj; pulv. zingib. ʒss; sapo. venet. ʒj; .*M.* Ft. pilul. No. xxiv. Two to be taken half an hour before each meal. Her diet was regulated; a small portion of meat was occasionally allowed at dinner, and subsequently she took cold chamomile tea. Under this treatment, her digestive organs were restored to a more healthy condition, and she gained strength; but no improvement took place in her sight. She was able merely to distinguish light; and it was agreed in consultation, to repeat the operation.

A mild purgative being premised, and the extract of belladonna applied around the eyes the night before, I operated October 18th, assisted by my colleagues. The pupils admitted of only moderate dilatation, in consequence of adhesions between the margin of the iris, and capsule of the lens.

The patient being laid on a table, her head raised on a couple of pillows, (the position in which we always operate for cataract,) a straight, pointed, double-edged needle was introduced about a line and a half behind the cornea, with one flat surface towards the lens, and pushed forward between the lens and iris, until its point appeared in the pupil. The adhesions were carefully separated with the edge and point of the instrument, which was effected without wounding the iris; the needle was next carried entirely across the pupil, and one cutting edge being then turned towards the lens, it was partially withdrawn, dividing the lens exactly in half. The two fragments were then broken up, and some of them pushed into the anterior chamber. The patient was put to bed in a dark room, the strictest abstinence enjoined; barley water for sole nourishment; and belladonna to be applied every night around the eye. Slight inflammation followed the operation, but this yielded to a small bleeding, and a few applications of cups to the head, and back of the neck.

She was soon able to take mild nourishment, which was allowed as early as circumstances would permit, on account of her previous feebleness and the derangement of her digestive organs. Absorption went on rapidly, and on the 27th November, she was discharged, being desirous to return to her family, who resided some miles in the country. At this time, she was able to read with one eye, and to distinguish persons with the other. There is little doubt but that the whole cataract was eventually absorbed.

Case. Capsular Cataract.—Caroline B——, ætat. 23, was admitted October 3d, with cataract in the left eye. She stated that she had not enjoyed, since her earliest recollection, sight with that eye, and within a short period, she found her other eye was becoming weak from excessive use, in teaching school during the day and sewing at night, and she was afraid of losing the sight of this one also. There was no sign of cataract in this eye; three images of a flame were seen in it; there existed merely an irritability of the retina, from excessive employment of the organ. Her situation, which was a peculiar one, rendered her unwilling to give up her occupations and become the inmate of an hospital for the relief of her right eye; but she was satisfied to do so for the purpose of an operation on her left one. Though reluctant to operate upon one eye, whilst vision is pretty good in the other, I consented to waive this on the present occasion, as the treatment to which she would then be subject, appeared to afford the only prospect of curing her right eye, or probably, indeed, preventing her losing the sight of it entirely.

The cataract in the left eye was pure white, very dense, with a minute dark spot near the centre, apparently a small opening. There was no adhesion of iris to capsule, the pupil freely dilating under the action of belladonna. The patient could distinguish with her left eye, the position of a light, and tell when an opaque body was interposed.

The history of the case, as well as the appearance of the opacity, led me to believe that the cataract was membranous, probably formed by the union of the anterior and posterior surface of the capsule, the lens having been absorbed, and that it would require some management to cut it up with a needle.

The patient was put upon a light diet, her bowels regulated.

October 18th. We this day operated in the presence of our colleagues. The pupil was well dilated by the extract of belladonna, which had been applied around the eye last night, and again early this morning. A straight, pointed, double-edged cutting needle was introduced through the sclerotica, at the usual place, with one flat surface towards the iris, and passed across the pupil, until its edge became concealed behind the nasal margin of the iris. The edge was next turned, so as to correspond as nearly as possible to the diameter of the cataract, against which it was firmly pressed; then with a short, quick stroke, the cataract was divided entirely, and exactly in half. The lower half was next cut up, and the fragments placed in the anterior chamber, and then the upper half divided several times, but it could not be cut up as well as the other half. Belladonna was ordered to be applied around her eye at bed time.

The night after the operation, this patient became maniacal, and upon inquiry, we learned that she had had several such attacks before, and had, at one time, been for several months confined in a lunatic asylum. The present attack yielded to venesection, cups to the head, and tart. antim. in small doses

combined with laudanum, as did several others subsequently; and these means also relieved some slight inflammation of the eye which followed the operation.

Absorption went on very rapidly, and all the fragments in the anterior chamber were removed by the 6th of November; and her mind was then perfectly clear.

At this period, a sudden attack of mania came on at midnight; she left her bed, got into the bath tub, turned the valve which let the water flow to the shower bath, and the steward, who was awakened by the noise of the flowing water, found her completely drenched. The consequence of such an exploit, on a cold November night, as might be supposed, was a severe inflammation of her eye. This yielded, however, to an active antiphlogistic treatment. It is worthy of mention that there was a large fragment of capsule, the morning after this event, in the anterior chamber, which had passed into it from the posterior, doubtless in consequence of some sudden jar.

Notwithstanding these untoward occurrences, absorption went on well, and on the 20th of December, no portion of the cataract remained except a small fragment behind the upper and outer edge of the iris. The pupil when viewed in front was entirely clear, no injection of the conjunctiva. The patient can count the number of fingers held up, and distinguish different persons with her left eye.

The right eye has improved; indeed her sight with it seems now perfect. Being troublesome from her repeated attacks of mania, she was discharged December 26th.

She has since, we learn, had a severe attack of mania and is now in the Insane department of the Pennsylvania Hospital.

IRITIS. No acute case of this disease presented at the hospital. The following example of the sequelæ of the complaint is interesting from the complete cure effected.

Case. Lymph in Pupil the sequela of Iritis.—David Jackson, ætat. 24, had been admitted into the house, August 29th 1838, for iritis, by my predecessor Dr. Littell. Under the judicious treatment to which he had been subjected his sight had much improved, and when he came under my care his vision with one eye was tolerably good, with the other it was very imperfect. The pupils were small, irregular and considerable lymph still in them. No inflammation. The attack had come on in May last, first in one eye and a few days subsequently in the other.

October 2d. Extract. belladonnæ cum ung. hydrarg. part. ægales. was directed to be applied around his eye every night.

19th. Ordered the following. R. calomel pp. gr x.; tart. antim. gr. j; nit. potass. ʒj; M. Div. in chart. No. xii. Four to be given daily; Continue local application.

On the 29th of October, his mouth became sore, when the powders were

discontinued and he was ordered the compound syrup of sarsaparilla. Under this treatment the pupils dilated, the lymph was absorbed and vision improved so much that he was able to pass a portion of each day in reading the newspapers to a Mr. V—, a patient in the house. When my term of service expired he could read, with one eye, the smallest lettering on a map of the United States in the office, and with the other eye, could read very small print. He was discharged, cured, February 20th, 1839.

PURULENT CONJUNCTIVITIS. But a single acute case of this disease was admitted into the Hospital during our tour of duty.

Case. Catarrhal Conjunctivitis—Chemosis—Ulceration of Cornea.—John Moffit, ætat. 30, a short robust Irishman, a labourer on the Schuylkill coal wharves, admitted October 13th, with purulent conjunctivitis of right eye. He had been attacked some days previous to admission, in consequence of taking cold. His right eye was extremely inflamed; chemosed and discharged pus copiously. The conjunctiva was so distended that it projected over the margin of the cornea covering nearly half the circumference of this coat; pulse active; considerable pain in his head. Left eye not inflamed but light slightly offensive to it.

This patient was several times bled and cupped, his bowels were kept open and his eye was washed with a collyrium of corrosive sublimate, gr. ij. in four ounces of water. The chemosis not yielding to this treatment, the conjunctiva was divided in a radiated manner according to the plan recommended by Mr. Tyrrell, (see this Journal for November 1838, p. 242.) The swelling of the conjunctiva abated and a deep ulcer was then observed near the margin of the cornea on that part previously covered by the swollen conjunctiva. This ulcer was lightly touched several times with solid nitrate of silver. Dover's powders and mustard pediluvia were ordered at bed time and finally a blister behind the neck. Under this treatment the inflammation was subdued and the ulcer healed. There was however a small point of adhesion between the iris and cornea causing a slight irregularity of the pupil. The patient was discharged with his sight entirely restored, December 22d.

Remarks. In the preceding case, depletion was more frequently employed, than is usually necessary. It seemed to us to be demanded by the severe and constant pain in the head. The division of the conjunctiva by the method recommended by Mr. Tyrrell, did not seem to be productive of the benefit we expected from the representations of that surgeon; but it would be unfair to condemn it from the result of a single trial.

In most cases of catarrhal conjunctivitis, sanguineous depletion can be dispensed with; and a cure be effected more promptly by the local application of nitrate of silver. Our prejudices were originally strongly against this method of treatment; but ample experience has demonstrated to us its superiority—a cure being produced in infinitely less time, and with less suffering to the patient.

The following cases which occurred in private practice, we may adduce as illustrative of this.

Mrs. M——, aged about forty-five years, thin, health pretty good, though formerly a great sufferer from dyspepsia, consulted me, April 19th, 1839.

She had inflammation of conjunctiva, which had come on two days previously, in consequence, she thinks, of exposure to cold. The conjunctiva of both eyes is injected; considerable effusion of serous fluid beneath it, constituting chemosis, but of a paler character than usual. Scarcely any intolerance of light; slight feeling of sand in the eyes; some lachrymation; pulse natural; no headache. She had taken, the night before, a purgative, which had operated well.

I ordered nit. argent. gr. iss; aq. puræ ℥j. M. Of this, I placed a few drops on the eye, this and the six succeeding mornings. She was directed to wash her eyes occasionally during the day, with the following collyrium.—R. corros. sub. gr. j; aq. puræ ℥iv. M. Mild diet was directed, and avoidance of exposure; room to be moderately lighted; mustard pedulivium every night; one or two mild laxatives were given. Under this simple treatment, in six days the redness and chemosis entirely disappeared, and the patient expressed her surprise at the rapidity of the relief.

Mr. H. E—— applied to me, Saturday, June 1st, with inflammation of right eye. There was considerable serous chemosis, and also swelling of the lids; no intolerance of light; pulse natural; no constitutional derangement. Patient attributes his attack to taking cold the preceding Wednesday night, when he had been obliged to rise from bed and go a considerable distance. He had taken, the night previously to our seeing him, a dose of salts, which had operated. We applied a few drops of a solution of nit. argent. to his eye, of the strength of one grain and a half to the ounce of water. It produced slight smarting, which soon went off. This was repeated June 2d and 3d. June 4th, the patient called again, and said he had done so in compliance with our request, but that his eye was well, and no further application was necessary.

Remarks. The want of success sometimes attendant upon the use of the solution of nitrate of silver, is to be in a great degree attributed, we believe, to the careless manner in which this preparation is made. Both the nitrate of silver and the water should be chemically pure, and the solution perfectly pellucid. It must be observed, moreover, that it is best when freshly prepared. In a few days, or if exposed to the light, in a few hours, the solution assumes a reddish tint, and small dark particles may be perceived floating in it. In this state, its use is often followed by injury, instead of benefit.

CHRONIC PURULENT CONJUNCTIVITIS WITH GRANULAR LIDS.—A greater number of patients are admitted into the hospital for this, than for any other diseases of the eyes. This arises, doubtless, from the fact of the disease

being generally but little understood by physicians; consequently, patients, finding no benefit from the usual treatment, wander from place to place in hopes of obtaining relief. As an evidence of how little the complaint is understood, it may be stated, that a gentleman of wealth, from Mississippi, who had long been suffering from it, and had consulted many eminent physicians without relief, assured us, that although one or two of those who had given him advice had suggested that the obstinacy of his disease might be owing to granulations; that the only means by which the existence of these granulations could be detected (the eversion of the lids) had never been resorted to until by ourself, and that no direct application had ever been made to them. This gentleman, who came here quite blind, recovered his sight after the removal of the granulations.

Most of the cases in the house had been there for a considerable period, and as they do not illustrate the principal points to which we are desirous of calling attention, we must postpone the remarks we wish to make, for a better opportunity.

The following case will show the ordinary features of the complaint and general mode of treatment; and is interesting from the great improvement which took place. Like many of the cases of this complaint, it was protracted in its course, and the result should serve to stimulate the practitioner to perseverance under the most discouraging circumstances.

Case. Chronic Purulent Conjunctivitis—Opacity of the Cornea—Granular Lids.—Terence Hagan, *etat.* 30, admitted September 30th, 1837. —This man stated that he had been attacked in November, 1836, with inflammation of both eyes, accompanied with discharge of matter; that after having been some time treated by a physician in New Jersey, finding his disease not abating, he went, the following March, to the city of New York, where he was treated by scarifying the lower lids, repeated cupping from the head, and took pills which made his mouth sore. Being dissatisfied with the result of this treatment, he came on to Philadelphia.

When he applied at the hospital, the propriety of granting him a certificate that he was not incurable, which is necessary for admission, seemed to me doubtful. At this time, his cornea was so completely opaque with effused lymph, that he could barely distinguish day from night; his ocular conjunctiva was a mass of red vessels, through which the natural colour of the sclerotics could not be seen; the palpebral conjunctiva of the upper lids were covered with large, firm, wart-like looking granulations; and that of the lower lids showed numerous cicatrices, the consequences of deep scarifications. There was some intolerance to light, with cephalalgia, and sense of weight in the head; pulse moderately active.

The day he was admitted, cups were applied to his head, and ten or twelve ounces of blood taken, and an active purgative was prescribed. These remedies relieved his headache, and abated the intolerance of light. He was then subjected to the following treatment, which was persevered in

with little variation during the three months he continued under our care. Cups were applied to his head every few days, the period determined by the recurrence of the headache, which was frequent, and by the increase in the injection of the conjunctival vessels; purgatives were given as revulsives, and to correct the torpid state of the bowels; a mild, light diet principally vegetable, was directed; and the solid sulphate of copper applied every two or three days, to conjunctiva of upper lids, and occasionally to that of the lower. This local application was made with difficulty in this case, inasmuch as it was impossible to completely evert the upper eye lids. The only way it could be effected, was by drawing the lid from the ball, inserting a thin piece of the article, fixed in a quill, between the lid and ball, and then rubbing it against the former. Under this treatment, the granulations diminished, as also the injection of the ocular conjunctiva, and absorption of the lymph in the cornea commenced.

The treatment was continued by my colleagues, modified occasionally to suit varying circumstances or in conformity to peculiar views. The only change however we need notice is the administration of iodine, which was given partly to promote absorption and partly to relieve scrofulous swellings of the glands of his neck, which occurred and proved troublesome; suppurating and causing much discomfort to the patient.

On the 1st of October, 1838, Hagan again came under our care. His eyes during the interval had much improved. Distinct vessels could now be seen on the ocular conjunctiva, between which the natural colour of the sclerotica was visible. The granulations had nearly disappeared, and a large portion of the lymph on the cornea had been removed.

The upper lids could now be everted and the sulphate of copper was occasionally applied to them. Hagan still suffered at times from headache from which he was always relieved by cups to the head, and this remedy also served to diminish the injection of the conjunctival vessels. The shower bath was also directed as long as the weather permitted, and as his bowels were still inactive, the pil. cathart. comp. two or three at bed time. The glands of his neck, particularly of right side, were swollen, indurated and occasionally discharged pus. To correct this condition, which we suspected might have some dependence on a syphilitic taint, we ordered on the 10th of October, the syrup of sarsaparilla ℥j. three times a day with one tenth of a grain of corrosive sublimate. The latter was given as follows: R. corros. sub. g. j; spt. vin. ℥j. solv. et add. aq. puræ ℥v. M. liq. A tablespoonful with the syr. sars. three times a day.

This was continued for a month, at the end of which the swelling of the glands had diminished and also the injection of the eyes. A seton was then inserted in his neck, and a few drops of vin. opii placed daily on his eye, and mustard pedeluvia were ordered twice a week at bed time. Cups were still occasionally required, and also the sulphate of copper.

Early in December (5th) Hagan complained much of nausea, loss of appe-

tite and general feelings of malaise. His diet was then changed. Soups which had previously constituted the principal part of his food were forbidden, and a little meat allowed daily with soft boiled eggs, rice, and milk. The following pills were also prescribed. *R. pulv. rhei ℥j. bicarb. sodæ ℥ij. extr. gent. gss. M. Ft. pilul. xl, three to be taken morning and evening.* These pills were continued for several days when he was given the sulphate of quinine in small doses. Under this treatment his stomach recovered its tone. The *vinum opii* was continued.

By the 1st January 1839, when my term of service expired, Hagan was able to distinguish the different persons in the house. The granulations had entirely disappeared, there were but few red vessels in the conjunctiva, and the colour of the iris could be distinguished around the circumference of the cornea.

During the month of May, 1839, we had charge of the house in consequence of the indisposition of our colleague Dr. Fox, when we found Hagan still there, and with improved vision. My immediate successor Dr. Isaac Parish had removed portions of the conjunctiva around the cornea which seemed to have promoted absorption of the lymph on the cornea.

Hagan could now see sufficiently well to make himself useful by working in the garden. The seton was still in his neck and discharging freely. A drop or two of the undiluted liquor plumb. subacet. was directed to be placed on his eyes every two days and iodine, to be given internally. In a couple of weeks his mouth became sore, which was, he says, the case when he took this last previously, and it was discontinued and an astringent wash directed for his mouth under which the ulceration began to heal.

The most rapid improvement took place during this month, principally attributable, I think, to the use of the liq. plumb. subacet. and on the first of June, when Dr. Fox resumed the service of the hospital, Hagan was able to read large letters—as the heading of a newspaper.

Remarks. The liquor plumbi subacetatis of the old London Pharmacopœia is a most efficacious remedy for the removal of opacities of the cornea, whilst the pure article at present prepared, in our trials, has proved valueless and sometimes we have thought even injurious.

T. R. Coffedge Esq., President of the Medical Missionary society in China, well known for his efforts to extend to the Chinese the benefits of medical science, and whose experience in diseases of the eyes has been very extensive, informed us last winter, during a visit with which he favoured us at the Hospital, that such also was the result of his observation.

Case. Acute Inflammation of the Conjunctiva, supervening upon chronic—Thickening of the Conjunctiva of lower lids—Growth of Hairs from inner edge of tarsus. Mary Lenox, ætat. 35, admitted October 3d. The conjunctiva of the globe much injected, and that lining the lids red and thickened. A purulent secretion, in small quantity, flowed from the eyes, and a row of hairs grew from the inner edge of the lower tarsi and were applied to the eye, adding much to the irritation. This woman was at service

as cook, and suffered from frequent attacks of inflammation of the eyes. The present acute attack of inflammation was attributable to cold taken a few days previously. Her general health was good. The irregular hairs were, at once, carefully removed with forceps. Twelve ounces of blood were drawn from the arm and a purgative ordered at bed time.

She subsequently underwent a pretty active antiphlogistic treatment, consisting in venesection, cupping, purging and tart. antim. in small doses; and at each visit her eyelids were carefully examined, and whenever irregular hairs were detected they were extracted. By these means the active inflammation was subdued.

The palpebral conjunctiva remained, however, thickened, and the secretion of the meibomian glands was deranged and in excess, and formed a crust at the root of the lashes of the lower lid. To relieve the former, the solid sulphate of copper was applied every other day to the part, and for the latter, the ung. hydrarg. rub. was ordered to be rubbed at night on the edge of the lids.

Under this treatment rapid improvement took place, and she was discharged, November 10th, as a patient, and hired as a cook in the house. She has since become principal nurse, and suffers no inconvenience from her eyes, except when irritation is caused by the growth of irregular hairs. On such occasions she has applied to me to remove them, and I have found nothing further required for her relief. The appearance of the eyes and lids are perfectly natural, except that the lashes are scanty.

Remarks. We have been induced to relate the preceding case in order to draw attention to the fact of inflammation being often maintained by the irritation caused by irregular hairs. These hairs are sometimes so fine, that they can only be seen in a good light and by the aid of a lens, and yet, they keep up excessive irritation, when not removed, to the great perplexity of the practitioner and distress of the patient; in one instance I knew an eye, destroyed by the irritation caused by a single hair. It occurred in a young gentleman who was convalescing, favourably, from an extremely severe, purulent conjunctivitis. He experienced the sensation of a hair, irritating one of his eyes, and desired his room-mate, a student of medicine, to remove it, as he had often seen me do. An examination was made for the purpose, but the source of irritation could not be discovered, and the patient was persuaded that the sensation was deceptive. On my visit, two days afterwards, I found the eye to my surprise greatly inflamed. By the aid of a lens, the hair, which had produced this, was readily seen, and was extracted with a pair of forceps. The sensation immediately ceased, but the eye never recovered from the consequences of the re-excitement of inflammation in it.

Case. Caustic Lime accidentally applied to Cornea—Partial adhesion of Conjunctiva of lower lid to that of the globe of the eye—Granular Lids, &c.—Bernard M'Manus, *stat.* 23, admitted June 16th. This man

when he came under my care, October 1st, had dense central opacity of the cornea of the left eye, covering the entire pupil; the lower lid was adherent in part to the globe, the upper lid was highly injected and granulated; the conjunctiva covering sclerotica was moderately injected; there was profuse lachrymation and considerable photophobia; eye lashes encrusted with secretion from meibomian glands.

He stated that this train of evils had resulted from some lime having fallen in his eye. He had been subjected to an active antiphlogistic treatment and an attempt had been made to separate, with a knife, the lid from the globe; but reunion could not be prevented.

I scarified the conjunctiva of the upper lid; it bled freely; cups were repeatedly applied to the head and back of the neck; mustard pedeluvia, blisters and purgatives, as revulsives, were next resorted to; the eye was washed with weak chamomile tea with a little opium dissolved in it; and finally, three grains of blue mass every night for several weeks, until a slight coppery taste was perceptible, with syrup of sarsaparilla and ung. hydrarg. rub. to the roots of the eye lashes at bed time.

Under this treatment the irritation of the eye was overcome, and when my tour of duty expired, his eye was nearly well. The most troublesome symptom in this case, was the profuse lachrymation. This came on at irregular periods, and was always attended with severe pain in the temporal region and forehead. Cupping, with mustard pedeluvia and the chamomile tea seemed to afford most relief. Subsequently I inserted a seton in his neck, from which I have no doubt he has found benefit.

Remarks. Adhesion of the palpebral to the ocular conjunctiva frequently results from the introduction of caustic articles into the eye; and in some rare cases, from severe purulent conjunctivitis. One example only of this last has come under our observation. The subject of this was Henry Seabold, ætat. 26, a farmer, from Montgomery county, who applied to the Pennsylvania Eye Infirmary, February 15th, 1822. In this case, there was complete adhesion of the whole palpebral to the ocular conjunctiva, the bands extending entirely over the cornea. Vision was completely destroyed. This condition had followed, according to the representations of the patient, common catarrhal ophthalmia. We attempted to separate the lid from the ball, but found it impossible to prevent reunion, though various expedients were adopted for the purpose. In a case of partial adhesion of the upper lid to the cornea, in a young man, a plasterer, the consequence of the accidental application of caustic lime to the eye, which came under our care, in December, 1837; repeated attempts had been made by another surgeon, to separate the adhesion with the knife, with like want of success. We refused to repeat the attempt. The result in these three cases, would seem to show that little was to be expected from dissecting apart these adhesions; and we do not think we will again make the attempt. Mr. Middlemore, however, speaks of this operation in terms which lead us to infer, though

he does not positively say so, that he has performed it with success, where the adhesions were limited to a small surface.*

WOUNDS OF THE EYE. Several interesting cases of these were admitted, three of which seem to us to deserve to be recorded.

Case. Spines of a Chestnut—Bur penetrating Cornea.—James M'Gin-
nis, *setat.* 12, was admitted November 10th, 1838. About six weeks previously, he was engaged with another boy in obtaining chestnuts, and whilst looking up, a bur fell from the tree and struck him in the eye; some inflammation followed, which not yielding entirely to domestic remedies, and the vision of the eye being impaired, his mother brought him to the hospital. Fourteen or fifteen spines of the chestnut bur were observable in the cornea, through which coat several of them had penetrated, and there was conjunctival redness, but much less than might be supposed from the presence of so many irritating bodies. With the point of a cataract needle, three of the spines were extracted; the eye then became so irritable, and filled with tears, and the blood vessels injected, that I thought it best to desist, for the present, from further efforts. He was ordered *sal. Epsom* ʒj; half to be taken at once, and the remainder the next morning. Two days afterwards, the redness and irritability had subsided, and I extracted two more spines; when I thought it prudent to again desist, and salts were prescribed as before. By pursuing this course, all the spines were ultimately extracted. One of these spines penetrated the cornea, and seemed to enter the iris; its extraction was difficult, and I only succeeded after several trials. When removed, a portion of the aqueous humor followed. The wound healed as kindly as any of the others, and it is difficult to discover the points where the spines had penetrated. He was discharged October 29th, 1838, quite well.

Remarks. The slight inflammation which resulted from this injury, is worthy of observation. We have usually, however, found wounds of the cornea to be attended with less inflammation than those of any other tissue of the eye, and they readily heal, often leaving little or no perceptible opacity. But although the cornea does not readily take on inflammatory action, when it has once done so, and its vessels have become dilated so as as to give passage to red blood, it is extremely difficult to overcome this condition.

A very common accident to iron turners, is the partial penetration of the cornea by small particles of iron. One patient applied for relief from an injury of this kind. Whilst engaged in turning a piece of iron, a minute fragment entered his cornea, and a portion of it projecting externally, had caused considerable irritation of the conjunctiva. It was readily removed with a cataract needle. A dose of salts was then directed, and cold applications to the eye. The case was not thought of sufficient importance to be

* *Treatise on the Diseases of the Eye.* London, 1835. Vol. II. p. 733.

admitted. I met the patient a few days subsequently, and learned he had promptly recovered, without further attention.

Case. Penetrating Wound of the Cornea—Prolapsus of the Iris.—Rosannah M'Nally, ætat. 8, was admitted November 8th, 1838, with prolapsus iridis of the right eye. About two weeks previously, whilst attempting to untie a knot in her shoe string by the aid of a fork, the instrument slipped, and a prong penetrated the cornea of her right eye, towards the lower and outer portion, at about a line and a half, or two lines from its junction with the sclerotica. Some inflammation followed, which resisted the homely applications made and continued when admitted in the hospital. The iris at this time protruded, forming a small dark tumour, and the iris was drawn towards the wound, rendering the pupil oval.

The inflammation was first subdued by venesection, saline purgatives and the usual antiphlogistic treatment; and the prolapsed iris was then touched with nit. argent. Under this treatment, the prolapsed portion of the iris disappeared, the wound healed, and the patient was discharged cured, on the 19th of December. There remained, however, permanent adhesion of the iris to the cornea, at the seat of the wound, and the pupil was irregular. Her sight was, however, excellent, and the motions of the iris, though limited, were not entirely destroyed.

Penetrating Wound of the Cornea by Fragment of a Percussion Cap.—Jeremiah Holmes, ætat. 32, mechanic, admitted December 15th, 1838. About six weeks previously, whilst standing near a person who was firing a fowling piece, a fragment of a percussion cap flew into his right eye, passed through the cornea near its centre and penetrated the lens, in which it probably lodged. When admitted, the wound in the cornea had healed, the lens had become opaque, and there was considerable conjunctival inflammation, with lachrymation and photophobia. This last prevented his attending to his business, as his other eye suffered from sympathy.

By bleeding, cupping, purging and the usual antiphlogistic treatment, the inflammation and other unpleasant symptoms were relieved; and as the weather was unfavourable for an operation, the sight of the other eye was now perfect and the patient was anxious to return home, he was discharged December 26th, with the advice to return and have an operation performed should he suffer any further inconvenience from the presence of the foreign body in the eye.

In April last I heard from the physician, who had recommended this patient to me, that he was working at his business, and the only inconvenience he experienced, is from the loss of vision in the one eye.

Remarks. Wounds of the eye by small projectiles, as portions of percussion caps, small fragments of stone, &c., are, judging from our own experience, of frequent occurrence, and practitioners do not seem sufficiently impressed with the importance of *promptly removing* such bodies. Some years since, (1833,) a man applied to us with a slender fragment of stone, about

half an inch long in his eye, one end penetrating the lens and the other projecting beyond the cornea. He stated that the accident had happened several days previously whilst he was engaged in quarrying stone. A blast had prematurely exploded, projecting the fragment into his eye. He was immediately taken to a physician, who prescribed a dose of salts and the application of cold water to the eye, but declined extracting the foreign body, saying, "it must *fester* out." The patient's sufferings became so intolerable, that he resolved to come to the city for relief. The condition of the eye when we saw him, some days after the accident, may be readily imagined. It was inflamed in the highest degree. The foreign body was immediately seized with forceps and was readily removed, except a minute fragment which broke off in the lens, as it afterwards *appeared*; and by a most active antiphlogistic treatment, the eye was saved, with however a small permanent opacity of the cornea and complete opacity of the lens.

It may be stated as a general rule, that foreign bodies projected into the eye should be *immediately* removed. The only exceptions to this, which occur to us, are when the body is very small and of iron, and has entered the anterior chamber without wounding the iris, or when it is nearly or completely buried in the lens. In the former instance it may be removed by absorption, as has several times happened, and in the latter, it would appear from our experience, not to be productive of any general irritation, and though opacity of the lens follows, this is not to be prevented; the lens may be removed at a more favourable opportunity, if desirable.

The means by which foreign bodies are to be removed from the eye, must of course be in some degree regulated by the extent of the injury—the parts implicated—the situation of the body—and the period after the injury, that the patient is seen by the physician. If the foreign body has penetrated the cornea without the whole of it passing through this coat, it should be extracted with a cataract needle; or if a portion remains exterior to the cornea, it may be seized with the forceps. In the latter case, it may be occasionally necessary to first enlarge the wound, with the point of a cataract knife or needle.

If the foreign body has passed entirely into the anterior chamber, penetrating or not the iris, and the wound in the cornea has not united, this wound should be sufficiently enlarged with a cataract knife, or what we prefer, scissors with a probe point, and the body removed with a pair of delicate forceps. If the wound in the cornea has united, this coat may be opened, as in the operation for the extraction of cataract.

When the foreign body is completely imbedded in the eye, and cannot be seen, as is sometimes the case, its removal is difficult, and for the most part the accident is fatal to the organ. A case of this kind occurred several years since under our observation.

A man applied to us with a wound penetrating the cornea near its margin and implicating the iris. He stated that, in discharging a de-

fective fowling piece, a portion of the percussion cap had struck him in the eye; that immediately a quantity of fluid had run out, but whether, or not, the fragment had come out also, he could not say. At this time several hours had elapsed since the accident; the eye was intensely inflamed, excessively painful and vomiting had several times occurred. The eye was in no condition for such an examination, as could alone have enabled us to ascertain the presence of the foreign body, if indeed, such an examination would have under any circumstances been allowable. The patient was, therefore, subjected to a most active antiphlogistic treatment. By these means the symptoms abated in a few days, when the patient insisted upon going home, a few miles in the country. The pain and inflammation, however, though lessened, never entirely ceased, and frequently became severe, and a physician in his neighbourhood very properly inferred, that this was owing to the presence of a foreign body, and as the eye was then completely disorganised, he opened it by a section with a cataract knife. The aqueous humour, the lens which was opaque, and vitreous humour were all evacuated. With the last portion of the latter came the fragment of percussion cap. It probably had been in contact with the retina; whence the pain and irritation. The want of perfect certainty, that the fragment was still in the eye and some hopes, if there, it might be buried in the lens, where its presence would be productive of no farther mischief, than causing opacity of this part, deterred us from having recourse to this expedient in the first instance. Had it been then done, it would have saved the patient much pain and suffering, nevertheless we should never have recourse to so severe a measure, except under the most desperate circumstances.

We intended to relate several other cases in order to illustrate some of the other forms of disease of the eye, but are induced to postpone doing so for the present, by the fear of extending this paper beyond proper limits.

ARTICLE II. *Case of Vesico-vaginal Fistula, successfully treated by an Operation.* By GEO. HAYWARD, M. D., one of the surgeons to the Massachusetts General Hospital.

A PRETERNATURAL opening between the bladder and vagina, known by the name of vesico-vaginal fistula, is one of the most distressing accidents to which females are liable. Its most common cause is protracted labour, in which the head of the child has been allowed to press for a great length of time on the bladder, when that organ is distended with urine. Gangrenous inflammation is in this way produced; a slough forms, which separates in a few days after delivery, and through the opening thus made, the urine

is destined to pass, in most of these cases, during the residue of the patient's miserable existence.

Though this is, without doubt, by far the most common cause of vesico-vaginal fistula, it may occasionally be produced in other ways. It may be the result of a careless use of instruments in the delivery of the child; as when the bladder has been torn by a crotchet; or it may arise from an abscess, a stone in the bladder, or a disease of that organ.

Whatever may be the cause of the fistula, the consequence is in the majority of cases of the most afflictive kind, not only because all the urine passes through this new opening, but because the patient has no power of retaining it: she is rendered miserable by the excoriation and soreness that are thus produced, and loathsome to herself by the fetor of the urine. So wretched is the condition of patients of this class, that the language which Dieffenbach applies to them, can hardly be thought to be exaggerated. "Such unhappy beings," he says, "are forced to exclude themselves from society; the very atmosphere surrounding them is polluted by their presence, and even their children shun them; thus rendered miserable, both morally and physically, they yield themselves a prey to apathy; or a pious resignation alone saves them from self destruction."

The degree of suffering, however, is not the same in all cases; the difference arises from the part of the bladder in which the fistulous opening is situated. When it is high up, the patient has some power of retention, but even then the urine escapes through the opening, when any considerable quantity accumulates in the bladder. But if the fistula is lower down, at the place where it is usually found, about an inch to an inch and a half from the opening of the urethra; the retentive power is almost if not altogether lost, the urine flowing off as fast as it is deposited by the ureters.

So great have been the inconvenience and suffering to which patients of this class have been subjected, that the attention of surgeons has long been directed to this formidable trouble, but it is not till within the last twenty years, that any operation for its radical cure has been successfully performed. It is only ten years since, that Mr. Henry Earl remarked, "it must be confessed, that under the most favourable circumstances, these cases present the greatest obstacles, and are certainly the most difficult that occur in surgery." He succeeded, however, in perfectly restoring three such cases; "in one of which," he says, "I performed upwards of thirty operations before success crowned my efforts."

The obstacles to success are numerous and must be apparent. The narrow space in which the operation is to be performed, the disposition of the urine to pass between the lips of the wound, the proximity of the ureters, the great secretion of mucus by the inner coat of the bladder, which is well calculated to interfere with the union of the parts, and the want of readiness with which mucous surfaces take an adhesive inflammation, are all very likely to defeat almost any operation, however well it may be done.

Several modes have been devised of operating for the radical cure of the vesico-vaginal fistula. Dupuytren recommended, where the opening was small, the application of the actual cautery; in his hands, it is said to have occasionally succeeded, but with other surgeons it has almost uniformly failed. The objections to it are numerous, and to my mind, decisive. It is not easily applied; it is difficult, and sometimes impossible to limit its action, and if this be not done, the orifice is enlarged instead of being closed, and the trouble of course aggravated.

When there is a laceration only of the bladder, without loss of substance, union, it is said, has sometimes been effected, by keeping a catheter in the bladder, and thus preventing the flow of urine through the wound. But cases of this kind are rarely so favourable, as they usually arise from a sloughing of the organ, followed by a loss of a portion of its parietes. In these cases it has been preferred to use the ligature, the edges of the opening being previously pared. In a few instances this operation has succeeded; in many it has failed, and in some cases it has been productive of inflammation, which terminated in death. For these reasons, as well as because I am not aware that the operation has been ever before successfully done in this country, I shall give the history of the case and the mode of operating at some length.

CASE. A married lady, ætat. 34, and of good health, consulted me on account of a vesico-vaginal fistula. Fifteen years ago, she was delivered, by means of instruments of her first child, which was dead, after having been in labour three days, during all of which time she passed no water. About ten days after her delivery an opening formed between the bladder and vagina, and since that period she has lost the retentive power of the bladder, and all the urine has escaped through the opening, except when a catheter has been introduced. Occasionally when in a horizontal posture there would be no escape of urine for two or three hours, though usually there was a continuous flow, but when in an erect position it was constantly dribbling, causing great inconvenience and distress. She had been eleven times pregnant since the accident, but had never gone her full period since the birth of her first child. It is not improbable that the fistula might have had some influence in the production of these repeated abortions.

The only attempts that had been made to relieve her, consisted in the introduction of a catheter, which she wore for a considerable length of time, and touching the edges of the opening with caustic. Neither of these means afforded any relief; of late nothing had been done and she regarded her case as almost hopeless.

Upon examination, I found the fistula situated from an inch and a quarter to an inch and a third behind the urethra, a little on the left side. It was not large, barely sufficient to admit the end of my forefinger, and surrounded by a hardened edge, nearly of the consistence of cartilage. There was

some degree of morbid sensibility in the lining membrane of the vagina, so that an examination was quite painful.

I told her that an operation for the difficulty had been several times successful; that it had more frequently failed, and that in a few instances it had been followed by very serious consequences. At the same time, I regarded her case on the whole as a favourable one, and if, after this explanation, she wished for an operation, I would cheerfully undertake it. She at once consented, and it was fixed for the next day but one, May 10th, 1839, when it was performed in the following manner, in the presence of my friends Drs. Channing, C. G. Putnam and J. B. S. Jackson.

The patient was placed on the edge of a table, in the same position as in the operation for lithotomy. The parts being well dilated, I introduced a large bougie into the urethra and carried it back as far as the fistula. In this way I was able to bring the bladder downwards and forwards, so that the opening was brought fairly into view. The bougie being then taken by an assistant, I made a rapid incision with a scalpel around the fistula about a line from its edges, and then removed the whole circumference of the orifice. As soon as the bleeding, which was slight had ceased, I dissected up the membrane of the vagina from the bladder all around the opening, to the extent of about three lines. This was done partly with the view of increasing the chance of union, by presenting a larger surface, and partly to prevent the necessity of carrying the needles through the bladder. I then introduced a needle, about a third of an inch from the edge of the wound, through the membrane of the vagina and the cellular membrane beneath and brought it out at the opposite side at about an equal distance. Before the needle was drawn through, a second and a third were introduced in the same way, and there being found sufficient to close the orifice, they were carried through, and the threads tightly tied. Each thread was left about three inches in length. I should have remarked, that I found no difficulty in introducing the needles by the hand, the fistulous opening having been brought so low down and so fairly in view.

A short silver catheter constructed for the purpose was then introduced into the bladder, and the patient was conveyed to the bed and laid on her right side, to prevent any urine from coming in contact with the wound. I found her in the evening, eight hours after the operation, quite comfortable. She had had some smarting for two or three hours; but this was soon gone; she complained a little of the catheter; all the water flowed through it and was received upon cloths. She was directed to live on thin arrow root, milk and water and a solution of gum arabic.

In the morning I removed the catheter, lest it might become obstructed, and after cleansing replaced it. No water had escaped through the wound. The patient had slept some in the night; her pain had been slight and all her sufferings she referred to the instrument. Her pulse was good and she

had no febrile symptoms. She was directed to keep in the same position, to live on the same diet and take a solution of salts early the next morning.

She went on perfectly well for five days, the catheter being removed daily. At this time I examined her by means of a speculum. I found that the stitches were quite firm and that the wound had apparently healed in its whole extent. There was no oozing of water through it, though she was then lying on her back and there was urine in the bladder, as it flowed through the catheter as soon as I introduced it. I then cut away the stitches, which I found by no means easy, as I was afraid to bring down the bladder as was done in the operation, lest the wound might be torn open. The stitches however were at length safely removed, and in doing this I was much indebted to the assistance of my friend Dr. Putnam.

A smaller catheter was now introduced, and the patient put to bed in the same position as before. She continued very comfortable for two days, much more so than she had been at any time before, which she attributed to the size of the instrument. I then renewed the catheter altogether and directed her to introduce it every three hours, so as to prevent any accumulation of urine. This she did till the second night, when she slept quietly for seven hours and on waking felt no inconvenience. Twice also during this period she passed water by the efforts of the bladder alone, so that the organ had already regained in part its expulsive power, as well as that of retention. She now set up, introduced the instrument less frequently and was allowed a more generous diet.

At the end of seventeen days from the operation I examined her again; the wound was entirely healed and apparently firm, and the soreness nearly gone. I advised her to introduce the catheter two or three times a day for some weeks; and on the following day she returned home by water, a distance of nearly two hundred miles.

Every thing connected with this case proved more favourable than I had anticipated. The operation was not difficult, nor very painful; it was followed by no bad consequences and afforded complete relief. Perhaps the mode in which the operation was done, may have contributed something to its successful result. No violence was done to the parts by drawing down with hooks the fistulous opening, as in the common mode, nor was the bladder wounded by carrying the needles through it, which I presume is the usual practice. I do not speak with certainty on this point, for I cannot find that any one has given a precise description of the mode in which the operation is to be performed. It may be inferred from the following remark of Dieffenbach, that he carried the needles through the bladder, "It is enough to say," he remarks, "that the operation is always a dangerous one, chiefly on account of the injury done to the bladder; the suture always producing more or less inflammation of the edges of the fistulous opening, or of the surrounding parts." Now it seems to me that in almost every case in which the ligature would be the proper mode of operating, the edges of the

bladder can be brought in contact, without wounding that organ. The chance of adhesion would be much greater, and the danger of inflammation incomparably less. By dissecting up the membrane of the vagina to a considerable extent around the orifice and carrying the needles through this at some distance from the edge of the wound. I cannot doubt that the edges of the bladder, which of course should be previously pared, may in almost every case be brought into close contact.

This of course cannot be done where there is great loss of substance, but in such cases the ligature would not alone be sufficient, and some attempts have recently been made to treat them by the plastic method. "This operation consisted," says Blandin, "in paring the edges of the fistulous orifice, and adapting over it an oval flap derived from the internal surface of the large labia." This operation, according to the British and Foreign Medical Review, has been performed with some success by M. Jobert. In one instance "much inconvenience was experienced from the aftergrowth of hair in the transplanted flap."

I have ventured to make these suggestions, which I do with great diffidence, with regard to the mode of operating, because there is no case in surgery in which a successful operation gives more complete relief than in that of vesico-vaginal fistula, or relieves a greater amount of wretchedness, and because it is by no means well settled what is the best mode of treating this distressing infirmity. The attention of so many enlightened surgeons being now directed to the subject, gives reason to hope that an effectual remedy will be found for this deplorable malady.

Boston, June, 1839.

ARTICLE III. *A Case in which a portion of a Percussion Cap was extracted from the Anterior Chamber of the Eye by an Operation.*
Communicated by THOMAS SEWALL, M. D., of Washington, D. C.

THE following case occurred in a son of the Hon. W. C. Rives, of Virginia. At the time of the accident, Mr. Rives, being a member of the United States Senate, was residing in Washington with his family. Alfred, the youngest son, had but recently recovered from the measles, which was at that time epidemic in the city. The disease was severe, but passed off kindly, leaving him only, as is common in that disease, with a very irritable state of the system. He was naturally spare and delicate in his form, but possessed an elasticity and vigour of constitution, physical and intellectual, rarely met with in a youth of his age.

On the 7th of March, 1838, while standing in the street, near his father's residence, a boy who was passing, exploded a copper percussion cap, a

fragment of which struck the globe of the left eye, entered the cornea near its centre, passed obliquely through it, and embedded itself in the iris to the left of the pupil. The fragment which entered the eye, was ragged and angular, the eighth of an inch in length, and the twelfth of an inch in width. It extended its greater diameter from the pupil, to the circumference of the iris, and though embedded in the iris, it was still visible in its whole extent. Such is the history of the case, and such was the state of things when I was hastily called by the father to visit his son, at four o'clock in the evening, a few moments after the accident had happened. Upon examining the case, I apprised the parents of its critical nature, and of the probable necessity of extracting the metallic body by an operation, in order to prevent the destruction of the eye, from subsequent inflammation, and advised the father to step into the cars, which were about to leave for Baltimore, and procure, if possible, the assistance of that eminent surgeon Professor N. R. Smith.

In the meantime, the patient was placed in bed, with the head elevated, the room darkened, a cold lotion applied to the eye, and in the course of the evening, twelve ounces of blood were taken from the arm, and a dose of purgative medicine exhibited. All stimulants were prohibited, and no other nourishment allowed than barley water. The extremities, which had become cold, resumed their natural warmth, and a gentle perspiration spontaneously broke out over the whole surface. Very little pain ensued, till the lapse of thirty-six hours; when the system reacted, the pulse became full, hard and frequent; the skin hot and dry; and the eye manifested evident marks of approaching inflammation, accompanied with paroxysms of severe pain. These symptoms were subdued by further bleeding, purging and the use of Dover's powder. Dr. Smith did not arrive in time to examine the eye until Sabbath morning, forty-two hours after the injury was inflicted. Upon a careful examination of the case, with all the attendant circumstances, it was determined on to open the eye, and, if possible, extract the metallic substance, as affording the only hope of preserving vision, or saving the eye from disorganisation.

The patient was accordingly placed on a table of suitable height, with the head slightly raised, and the eye exposed to the most favourable light. Ample preparation was made to secure the patient by means of assistants, but the youth chose to rely upon his own self control; and this was found fully adequate without the slightest interference of the bystanders. The operation was commenced by separating the lids and fixing the globe of the eye by the aid of the fingers. The cornea knife was then passed in a horizontal direction, into the anterior chamber of the eye, through the cornea, near its external margin, as for the extraction of cataract, except that the incision was less extensive. Through this incision, a pair of delicate forceps were introduced, the metal seized, and by several partial turns of the instrument, it was disengaged from the iris and extracted. A few drops of

blood followed the operation; a portion of the aqueous humour was evacuated and the cornea collapsed. The operation was performed by Professor Smith, with an adroitness and precision which I have seldom witnessed under circumstances far more favourable to the surgeon. It was only a few minutes after the patient was placed on the table, before the operation was completed, and he returned to the bed.

The subsequent treatment of the case for several weeks, consisted mainly in the abstraction of all stimulants, and as extensive depletion as could be practised with safety. All light was excluded, the room preserved of a uniform temperature, kept well ventilated and free from noise and confusion. No one but the mother was permitted to approach the patient, and her presence seemed always to soothe and tranquillize him; while her watchful care and discriminating judgment seemed to anticipate every exigence, and overcome every difficulty. The head and shoulders of the patient were kept constantly elevated, and this position seemed essential to his ease and comfort, through the whole of the inflammatory stage of the case. Cloths wet in cold water were constantly applied to the eye, and were never permitted to become warm or dry. Blood was taken a few times from the arm; the bowels were fully purged every day or two with calomel, followed with magnesia, and the pain was constantly subdued by the use of Dover's powder, or the sulphate of morphine. The diet consisted mostly of gruel and barley water. But these articles were administered but sparingly. After a few days, the extract of belladonna was applied twice daily to the lids of the eye, and over the adjoining skin, with a view to prevent a permanent contraction of the iris, and an obliteration of the pupil, to which there seemed a strong tendency. Great care was taken to keep up an equality of excitement of the system, and especially to preserve a due degree of moisture of the skin; and no circumstance seemed more essential to his comfort, or more effectually to counteract the tendency to inflammation, than a uniform and equal perspiration. For this purpose, the tartrate of antimony was exhibited in small doses. Whenever the skin became dry, the pulse would become hard, and the pain in the eye return with violence. For about ten days after the operation, the inflammation continued to increase; from this time, it gradually declined, but was not entirely subdued till the end of the seventh week. During the whole of this period, the diet was entirely vegetable, and of the most bland and innutritious character. Barley, rice, potatoe and cracker, with a little currant jelly and water were allowed, but were taken very sparingly. After the first week, calomel was exhibited in alterative doses of half a grain, till the mouth became slightly affected. After this, calomel in three grain doses was exhibited twice in the week, and purged off with magnesia. During the period of active inflammation, so much coagulable lymph was effused from the edges of the wounds in the cornea, and particularly that inflicted by the fragment of the percussion cap, that nearly the whole of the cornea became

white and opaque; and the anterior chamber of the eye appeared as if filled with the same substance, and there seemed but little prospect of the restoration of the function of vision; but as the inflammation subsided, the lymph was gradually absorbed, leaving only one or two slight specks indicating the position of the wounds in the cornea. Vision, though still imperfect in the affected eye, is so far restored, as to enable the youth to see all large objects that are passing, and to read letters of large size; and the structure of the eye is so perfect, that scarcely any difference is observable between the two organs, without a careful inspection.

As the case is a novel and interesting one, I shall here subjoin the letter of Mrs. Rives, in answer to one I had written her. Although it contains some things which I have mentioned in my communication, it will be read with interest on account of the intelligence which it manifests, the beautiful simplicity of the style, as well as the importance of the circumstances which it details.

CASTLE HILL, November 15th, 1838.

DEAR DOCTOR:—I had the pleasure of receiving your kind letter a few days ago, and take the earliest opportunity of thanking you for this added proof of your remembrance, as well as answering your inquiries respecting our little boy Alfred. I wish, very much, that you could yourself see the condition of his eye at present, that you might be able to judge of the improvement it has made, and to decide whether there is any hope of farther amendment; for though during a month after our return home, the improvement exceeded our expectations, it has, since that time been so slow, as to be hardly perceptible. I think at this time that the injured eye is free from any inflammation, and he raises the lid as easily as the other. The cornea is clear except a white spot around the cicatrice where the metal was extracted, and a white *streak*, which extends from this spot, and still obscures the lower part of the pupil. The pupil is decidedly smaller than the other and seems to me not exactly in the centre, but rather nearer the lower part of the eye. He can distinguish letters of a tolerably large size, though he seems to find great difficulty in reading words. Sometimes in looking at the moon, or the flame of a candle, he says they appear differently from what they do to the other eye, and often says "the moon looks *long* instead of round."

It will give me much pleasure, dear sir, to answer your queries respecting the treatment of the little boy, as far as I remember it, and I dare say I may be able to refresh your recollection of the matter, as it left an indelible impression on my mind. The sorrow and trouble caused by so alarming an accident, as well as the kindness manifested towards us both by yourself and Dr. Smith, will never be obliterated from our remembrance.

The accident occurred in March last, as you remember. The little boy, then just seven years old, was with his elder brother, near the door of our house in Third street, when a lad passed by, and stopping for a moment, exploded a percussion cap on the pavement by striking it with a stone. A considerable fragment of the cap flew in our little boy's left eye, entering the cornea below, and passing across a part of the pupil, lodged on the iris beneath the cornea; presenting the appearance of a metallic substance on the face of a watch beneath the crystal. This occurred at four o'clock in the afternoon, we immediately requested your attendance; you came and brought instruments with you; but after examining the eye, advised us to send for Dr. Smith. Mr. Rives immediately took a seat in the Baltimore car which left Washington at five o'clock. By your direction the little boy was put to bed, without his dinner, though he asked for it several times, as he appeared then to suffer little pain. You then bled him, and advised me to give him a dose of purgative medicine, which I did. During that night and the follow-

ing day he remained quietly in bed; the room darkened very much. The evening of the day after the accident occurred (Saturday) Dr. Smith came; he had been detained in Annapolis, and could not come sooner. The day had been so very dark, that if he had been with us, he said an operation of so delicate a nature would have been impracticable. Through the mercy of Divine Providence the ground was, on the night of his arrival covered with snow, which afforded the most perfect light without the glare of the sun, which was still obscured. That night (Saturday) the little boy slept tolerably well, until about daybreak, when he complained of a shooting pain through his eye, which he described as a pin sticking through it, the pain appeared severe, and returned at intervals, lasting only a short time. At nine o'clock Sunday morning Dr. Smith and yourself came. The Dr. for the first time had an opportunity of examining the injured eye, and my watchful and inquisitive glance detected, I thought, disappointment and apprehension. His consultation with you lasted an hour, when he determined on extracting the metal. The little boy was extended on a table, and a formidable array of assistants provided to hold him. You doubtless remember how unnecessary these preparations were; with what firm quietness he submitted to the operation. I held his head, and though my eyes were closed, I felt him turn again to the Dr, to extract the metal with the forceps after the incision was made. A very small quantity of blood flowed from the wound, not more than one or two drops, which I think the Dr. said gave him hopes that the iris was not materially injured. After the operation, the little boy was again put to bed, and the room was kept very dark and very quiet. My presence seemed to tranquillise him, and I watched over him day and night. During all that day and night he complained much of the pain in his eye; sometimes the paroxysms were very violent, and at last became so distressing that you directed anodyne powders to be given him whenever he suffered great pain. I continued their use for several days and nights. I think during this time he was bled twice; and took several doses of calomel followed by magnesia. His diet was of the lightest kind, and happily for several days he seemed to have no appetite, and sometimes complained of nausea. A slight draught of milk and water, a little currant jelly and water, or a few mouthfuls of rice without butter, was all he took for several days. The Dr. advised the use of the belladonna, immediately after the operation. I tried it several times, but it seemed to aggravate the pain to so violent a degree that you advised me to discontinue it for a while; this I did until the pain subsided and then recommenced the use of it. A few days after the operation, you gave him small doses of calomel, I think half a grain twice a day; which was continued nearly a week, when his mouth became slightly affected, and it was then discontinued. After that time you gave him three grains of Calomel twice a week, followed by magnesia. In about a fortnight you tried some of the nitrate of silver, but after dropping it once or twice in the eye, discontinued it. I think you said it increased the inflammation. Dr. Smith then recommended the use of Dupuytren's powder; consisting of calomel and loaf sugar and this blown into the eye; this was done once in two days, and the belladonna used twice a day, by rubbing it on the outside of the eye. I cannot speak of the progress of the inflammation, or the appearance of the eye, as I could never summon resolution to look at it during this time, but you doubtless remember its appearance.

During the confinement of six weeks to a dark room, he complained of nothing but the pain occasioned by this accident. He was sometimes nervous, and I used every precaution during this time, to avoid all excitement, particularly any interruption to his sleep. When he was awake I was always with him, and amused his mind by talking with him, reading his favourite little books, and soothed him to sleep again by singing the little nursery hymns he loved to hear. I never permitted him to be irritated, alarmed, or disturbed. He was always kept quiet, calm, and as far as his situation admitted, happy. In my endeavours to this end, I was blessed by the aid of an unseen and benignant power; and you may, perhaps, remember some of these sweet dreams of which he used to tell us, and which proved that though deprived of light, that "offspring of heaven first born," it was permitted to him to "see and tell of things invisible to mortal sight."

During the two months we spent in Washington, great attention was paid to his

diet, which was light and spare; a few grains of calomel given twice a week and followed by magnesia. His health seemed unimpaired, though he became very pale and thin. When we returned to our residence in the country, the change of air seemed to revive him entirely; and though the diet and medicine and daily use of Dupuytren's powder and belladonna were continued, he gained rapidly in flesh strength and colour, which he attributed to "smelling the roses, and hearing the birds sing, and feeling so glad." We have ever since our return used many of the precautions you advised. When he goes out, even now, his injured eye is shaded from the light; I make occasional use of the powder and belladonna to the eye and pay great attention to his general health.

I remain, dear sir, with the highest respect and esteem, yours truly.

J. I. RIVES.

DR. SEWALL.

Remarks. From a slight examination of the foregoing case, it might appear to present but little more danger or difficulty, than that of an ordinary operation for the extraction of cataract; but upon a closer inspection, it will be found to involve circumstances widely different, and to present some points critical in their nature, and worthy of special attention.

1. It should be recollected that there was but little opportunity in this case, to prepare the system for an operation, by previous depletion and low diet, as in that for cataract.

2. We had to encounter not only the inflammation occasioned by the use of the cornea knife, but that also caused by the ragged fragment of a percussion cap, forcibly driven through the cornea, producing a contused and lacerated wound; and in addition to these, the inflammation resulting from the injury done to the iris, by the metallic substance, which was so embedded in its texture, as to require considerable force to disengage it.

3. It became a point of serious deliberation, and one of the greatest moment to decide, whether it would be possible to preserve the eye, either in its structure or function, without the extraction of the foreign substance; and whether the inflammation which would necessarily result from such an operation, would be more hazardous to the organ than the irritating influence of the metallic body embedded in the iris. No case of a similar character could be found on record at the time, to aid the judgment upon this point; but to show the correctness of the decision which was made, I would mention that Professor Smith has since met with a case strikingly similar, in which a portion of a percussion cap was permitted to remain in the eye of a youth, in contact with the iris; the consequence of which was ruinous, both to the structure and function of the organ. In this case, the metallic substance ultimately worked out through the sclerotic coat, by the process of ulceration, and was finally extracted, after severe and protracted suffering. The difference in the result of these two cases, therefore, would seem to furnish a strong indication in favour of the extraction of foreign substances lodged in the eye under similar circumstances.

4. Depletion by the lancet, frequent purging and low diet, the exclusion of light, the elevated position of the head, the constant application of cold

water to the eye, the use of antimonials in equalising and subduing the excitement, and in promoting perspiration; and anodynes in doses sufficient to allay the pain and tranquillise the system, were the principal remedies relied on during the period of active inflammation; and their salutary influence was obvious and striking. It was only by the assiduous application of this course of treatment, under the administration of a judicious and vigilant nurse, that the inflammation was controlled, and the eye preserved from disorganisation.

5. After the stage of active inflammation has passed, the good effect of abstinence, rest, the exclusion of light, the use of laxatives, and alterative doses of calomel, was evident in removing the remaining inflammation and in promoting the absorption of the lymph which had been deposited in the cornea and anterior chamber of the eye. At the end of two weeks from the time of the accident, scarcely any one would have supposed it possible from the appearance the eye then exhibited, that vision could be restored, or even the organic structure of the eye could be so far preserved as to present a tolerable appearance, and yet, by the persevering application of the above remedies, the absorption of the lymph was promoted, until scarcely a vestige of the opacity remained, and the eye resumed nearly its natural appearance.

6. The constant and protracted application of the extract of belladonna to the eye and the neighbouring parts, was indispensable. It obviously prevented a permanent contraction of the iris, and an obliteration of the pupil, to which there was from the commencement a strong tendency.

ARTICLE IV. *Case of Sudden Death, with Remarks on that Occurrence.*

By EDWARD WARREN, M. D., of Boston, Massachusetts.

NOTHING is of more frequent occurrence in the life of a physician, than to be called in haste to a person, who is said to be "in a fit."

He finds, on his arrival, the friends of the patient in the utmost consternation and alarm; but in this he does not ordinarily participate; because he is aware that these are generally false alarms, and that, in nearly all such cases, where there is no particular evidence of cerebral or cardiac disease, the patient recovers spontaneously, and the fit leaves him in nearly his usual degree of health. Cases of apoplexy, paralysis or epilepsy, are rare in comparison with those of hysteria or syncope, and still more rare are the cases that have a sudden and fatal termination.

Amidst the infinite number of false alarms, however—amidst the numerous cases of syncope and hysteria, one sometimes occurs of more serious consequence. The patient, without having previously exhibited any striking marks of organic disease, is suddenly seized with symptoms, which appear

at first, only those of ordinary syncope, or of some hysterical affection, but which baffle the expectation of the physician, and resist all his efforts to restore animation.

A case of this kind recently occurred to me. The patient was a young woman of very delicate appearance, aged eighteen. She was married at fifteen, and had several times miscarried, but had no children. She was a domestic in a private family, where she had charge of children, but was never able to do any hard work, in consequence of a weakness at her "stomach." She frequently complained that it hurt her to go up stairs. She was of a lively disposition, but yet had frequently, if not habitually, a slight degree of that anxious expression that characterizes disease of the heart. Menstruation had always been difficult, and its occurrence frequently preceded or attended with fainting.

For several days preceding the attack I am about to describe, she had been in unusually high spirits, especially on the evening previous, Saturday, which was about the time for the menses to come on. On this day, she complained of weakness at the "stomach." In the evening, she visited a friend, to whom she complained that she felt strangely—"she had no sense." After her return home, however, she was in extravagantly high spirits. Sunday morning, she seemed as well as usual. She ate breakfast about eight o'clock, consisting of coffee, bread and fish—rather less than usual. She then went up stairs about her work, and came down about ten minutes past nine. She had reached the lower entry through which she was passing, when she was heard to fall, making at the same time a gurgling noise in the throat. She was found lying upon her face—her countenance very much flushed and hot. I saw her about ten minutes after she fell. Her face was of natural appearance, neither very red nor pale; her extremities were cold; there was gentle respiration. I immediately felt the pulse, which I found beating with moderate force and quickness. The eyes were closed, and the pupils slightly dilated, but in a natural position. She was lying upon a sofa, senseless and motionless. There was no stertor; no frothing at the mouth; no spasm. All the muscles were perfectly lax, and her limbs and head fell in any direction they were permitted. I directed the usual means for restoring suspended animation, to be instantly resorted to. Volatile drops were exhibited internally; hot water applied to the feet; a mustard poultice to the abdomen, and the temples and extremities were briskly rubbed with volatiles.

When I first saw her, there was nothing alarming in her appearance. I supposed it to be a common hysterical paroxysm, which might naturally be attributed to dysmenorrhœa. The pulse, however, soon stopped, and respiration ceased. The attempts to restore the latter function by artificial means failed, and the extremities became gradually colder. The attempts to restore animation were continued for about three hours. The body was then nearly cold; but there was not the slightest rigidity of the muscles:

the flexibility of all the parts continued. It is a subject of great regret, that the patient being of an Irish family, I could not obtain an examination.

With regard to the treatment of such cases, we generally are guided by circumstances. Where the symptoms are those of cerebral congestion, we bleed; where there are marks of impeded respiration, we open the trachea. In this case, there were neither. The symptoms being those of syncope, venesection, supposing it to have been possible to obtain blood, would have been manifestly improper. In cases of spasm, emetics, cathartics and stimulating enemata, will sometimes rouse the powers of the system, by exciting the parts to which they are applied, and restoring their natural functions. But when there is no action; when there is a sudden prostration of the system, an *aneantisement* of all the functions at once; the two former remedies are inapplicable. Enemata may be tried, indeed, where they can be employed without interfering with other measures; but we have more to hope for, in the first instance, from the exhibition of stimulants by the mouth, where they can be administered, and from powerful external applications. When, by these means, we have succeeded in exciting some slight degree of action, we may then derive advantage from stimulating enemata. In the case in question, supposing at first that it was one of hysteria, which is well known to assume every variety of form, I did not consider powerful remedies called for, and within a very few minutes, animation was so entirely lost, that there could have been nothing to hope for from injections.

The excitement that she had previously displayed, her extravagant spirits upon the evening before, and her complaint of "want of sense," would seem to point to the brain as the organ in fault. On the other hand, her frequent complaints of weakness at the stomach, by which she undoubtedly meant her heart, would seem to point out the latter organ as the seat of disease. Any affection of the heart that produced an increased impulse of the blood upon the brain, through the carotids, would, of course, produce cerebral excitement. Accordingly, we find that severe affections of the heart or pericardium, are not unfrequently attended by delirium. A slighter affection, of a similar kind, will therefore produce merely a greater or less degree of excitement, according to circumstances.

A remarkable feature in this case, was the continuance of pulsation, strong and full at the wrist, after the loss of sensation. In common cases of cardiac lesion, the pulse must cease almost instantly. This continuance of pulsation might be supposed to show that the functions of the brain were destroyed previously to those of the heart. It does not, however, follow by any means, that this organ may not occasion the death of the cerebral functions, (if I may use the expression,) by some sudden perversion, not by cessation of its action, and continue to act itself for some seconds after.

In the first volume of the Medico-Chirurgical Transactions, we find a paper by Mr. Chevalier, giving an account of three cases of sudden death, which appear somewhat similar to that which I have described.

The first was that of a young married lady, who died suddenly at a very early period after impregnation. While talking with her husband, she complained of being faint, and desired to lie down. She was led to her bed, and was supposed to fall asleep in her husband's arms. About 20 minutes after, he rang for the servant, who, on entering the room exclaimed—"My mistress is dead!" So indeed it proved.

On examination, no morbid appearances were found in any of the viscera, but there was an extreme flaccidity of the heart, and an entire emptiness of the cavities. There was blood in the vena cava, and in the pulmonary veins. The auricles and ventricles were destitute of blood, without either of them being contracted. Mr. C—— thinks that this lady died in a peculiar kind of syncope or asphyxia, in which the action of the heart had ceased, from want of a regular supply of blood from the returning vessels.

The second case, was that of an elderly man, who had recently recovered from a maniacal affection, and who fell suddenly from his chair, breathed short for a few moments, and then expired. The only morbid appearance, which was found in the brain, consisted in ossification of the falx, evidently of long duration. The state of the heart was found similar to that in the former case. All the cavities were empty, but *uncontracted*, and the vena cava was also empty to the distance of several inches from the auricle. No other appearance could be detected in any viscus, by which death could be accounted for.

The third case was that of a lady who died suddenly, after being delivered of twins. After the birth of the second child she appeared a good deal exhausted notwithstanding that the discharge of blood was very moderate. She recovered a little, but about two hours after, grew suddenly faint; breathed short and died in about half an hour.—All the cavities of the heart were found in a state of relaxation and completely destitute of blood. There was no blood in the vena cava near the heart, and the emptiness of its ascending branch extended as low as the iliac veins.

Mr. C. remarks that he has been able to find only two cases similar, recorded by medical writers. One of these is recorded by Bonetus. It occurred in a woman about forty years of age, who complained suddenly of dimness; noise in the ears, and headache. She soon lost her voice and pulse and died in four hours after the attack. Not a drop of blood was to be found in the heart or the adjoining vessels.

The other case is from Morgagni. It is similar to the third of Mr. C's cases. It was in a woman who, about an hour after her delivery of a daughter, was suddenly seized with dejection of spirits, coldness and loss of pulse and died in an hour and a half from the attack. On dissection, the heart was found exceedingly flaccid, scarcely any blood was found in the auricles or the right ventricle, and none at all in the left.

Mr. Chevalier concludes his paper with an account of two cases communicated to him by Mr. Woodd, which, though not fatal, appears to be of a

similar nature to the former. He proposes for this affection the name of *asphyxia idiopathica*.

The first patient, Mr. A., was attacked about one o'clock in the morning with an uneasy sensation in the thorax difficulty of respiration, and a sense of extreme lassitude. Mr. W. found him at six, with a pulse hardly perceptible and not more than twenty in a minute, although the vessels of the skin and tunica conjunctiva were loaded with blood. He had taken stimulants freely, notwithstanding which, the action of the heart had decreased. The sense of fainting and difficulty of breathing had become almost insupportable. He recovered under the use of stimulating medicines and enemata.

The subject of the second case was suddenly seized after a long walk with great difficulty of breathing and faintness, so as to be unable to stand or speak distinctly. When seen by Mr. W. his face was suffused with blood, his breathing was difficult with great anxiety, and his pulse scarcely perceptible. He supposed himself dying. He was relieved by the exhibition of stimulants, æther, ammonia, and laudanum. A blister was subsequently applied to his chest and he shortly recovered entire health.

The suffusion of the countenance, Mr. Chevalier considers as distinguishing this last case from one of ordinary asphyxia, and as marking its affinity to the others, as it showed the evident detention of the blood in the extreme vessels.

In two of the cases communicated by Mr. C. and in the one cited from Morgagni—very possibly in the one from Bonetus, the exciting cause of death seems to have been in the uterine system. In the young woman I have spoken of, death took place at the period when the menses were expected but had not occurred, and menstruation had usually been preceded by fainting or some hysterical affection. There was by report great suffusion of the countenance at first, though it did not continue when I saw her but returned afterwards, since her countenance was described by one who saw her on the next day as red and swollen. If this was true, the face was emphysematous, and the emphysema subsequently disappeared, for on removing the body for burial in a different place a fortnight after, it was found perfectly fresh and free from putrefaction, and the countenance of natural appearance.

Another cause of sudden death has been recently suggested by M. Olivier, to wit, the disengagement of a gaseous fluid in the blood, and its accumulation in the heart. If this is really a cause of death, may it not be a question whether Mr. Chevalier's cases may not be accounted for upon a similar principle? The heart and vessels to some distance from it, were found empty. Now might not the air have escaped upon opening the heart, without being perceived; or might it not have been absorbed or passed off in some manner, after the coagulation of the blood in the vessels? But Mr. Chevalier states that the cavities were found dilated. If so, they must have been

filled with something, and if not with blood or other perceptible matter, of course they must have been filled with air. The escape of air into the cavities of the heart would of course exclude the blood. Let us now see how the description given by M. Ollivier corresponds with that of the foregoing cases.

M. Ollivier gives three cases. The first was that of a young child who had been affected with measles, for a few days, and seemed to be quickly recovering from the disease, when suddenly, and without any premonitory symptoms, he fainted and expired in the course of a minute or two. On examination after death, the heart and large vessels were found distended with air, the parietes of the heart emphysematous and the cavities quite empty. The emphysema extended itself in the course of a few hours after death, through the cellular membrane of the body. No morbid change was found in the viscera, and there were no marks of putrefaction.

In the second case, that of a robust man, similar appearances were observed. This individual died suddenly a few minutes after he had retired to bed, seemingly in perfect health. General emphysema appeared about twelve hours after death; but without the slightest sign of putrefaction.

The third case was that of a young woman aged twenty-two, who was recovering from a fever which had left her for some time very weak. One afternoon, after having been engaged in trying on some masquerade dresses, she laid down upon her bed, to rest herself preparatory to her evening amusement. Upon attempting to rise and dress herself, she suddenly felt extremely faint, her head fell forwards on her chest, she screamed out that she was dying, and expired almost instantly.

M. Ollivier found the expression of her features calm like that of one asleep. The brain appeared to be quite healthy, though the blood which flowed from the divided vessels was frothy from the mixture of air. The cavities of the heart were remarkably distended, and, as it were, blown out. When an incision was made into the parietes, they at once sunk down. The lungs and all the pelvic and abdominal viscera were sound.

The peculiar circumstances of this case and its analogy to those in which sudden death has taken place from the accidental introduction of air into a vein, led Mr. C. to attribute it to the cause above mentioned. In these cases a whistling sound had been heard upon the division of a vein, during a surgical operation, the patient has expired almost instantly, and the heart upon examination has been found empty of blood and distended with air, and air bubbles found in the blood. M. Velpeau after a critical examination of the forty cases which have been given as supposed instances of this accident, and a comparison of them with experiments made upon animals, is disposed to deny that there has been as yet sufficient evidence adduced that this is really a cause of death. It must however be very difficult to imitate a natural phenomenon of rare occurrence by any artificial means. Because a large quantity of air is found requisite in an experiment to destroy an animal in

the manner mentioned, it does not follow that a less quantity under certain circumstances may not be fatal to the human subject. The small size of the vein through which the air is said to have been admitted, is no proof, therefore, that it was not the cause of death. The occurrence of the sound that has been noticed, like that of the passage of air through a narrow passage, the state of syncope, if not of death into which the patient instantly falls, and the emptiness of the cavities of the heart, or their distention with air might seem to be so good evidence of the accident, as is generally attainable upon medical subjects.

If this be admitted as an occasional cause of death, the question next occurs, in what manner does the air find admission into the heart, where no operation has been performed, and where the patient has suffered no external injury? Into the discussion of this question, I do not propose to enter. It is sufficient that Bichat and other distinguished writers maintain the possibility of such an occurrence. Bichat speaks of it as instantly fatal.

I think it will be admitted upon a comparison of the cases above mentioned, that there are general features of resemblance between the whole of them. One cause of fallacy in the report of medical cases, is that each observer is apt to pay particular attention, and attribute most importance to certain facts, especially if they correspond with his own views; while other facts, perhaps, of more real consequence, pass entirely unnoticed. Thus, had the first observer, whose cases I have cited, had his attention called to the subject, he might have found reason to consider the cause of death the same as in M. Ollivier's subjects. Cases of death occurring suddenly during operation, as M. Velpeau remarks, were explained in various manners, and attributed to various causes, long before that of the introduction of air through a divided vessel was suggested; but as soon as attention was called to the subject, instances were speedily observed.

The cause of death assigned by Mr. Chevalier, the retention of the blood in the extreme vessels, does not seem to be sufficient to cause the sudden cessation of the action of the heart. The phenomena would be better accounted for by attributing them to an action that would expel the blood from the heart, and force it into the minute vessels, than to one that merely delayed the return of the blood. Supposing the heart to become suddenly distended with air, or suppose its action to be suddenly increased by the application of some unaccustomed stimulus, there would be a rush of blood upon the brain, sufficient to induce immediate paralysis of that organ. This effect might be consistent with subsequent retardation of the heart's action, provided life was not destroyed by the first shock; for the effect of all stimuli is at first to increase, but secondly to retard the action of the parts to which they are applied. In this manner, the continuance of pulsation at the wrist for a short time after consciousness was lost and the vitality of the brain extinct, might be accounted for.

The case which I have recorded is incomplete, since permission could not

be obtained for a post mortem examination; still there can be little utility in these examinations, unless they enable us to argue from the cases in which we obtain them, to those in which we do not: nor are they of any practical value, unless we can derive from them the information necessary to detect the morbid cause by the symptoms exhibited in the living subject.

We find that some authors still place the cause of the most sudden and instant death, in the brain; but it is now most generally conceded, that the heart is most frequently in fault.* In old persons, especially when symptoms of cardiac affection have previously existed, and where we find no marks of cerebral disease, we may generally suspect rupture of the heart. All the cases recorded of this lesion, however, have occurred in old people, and it certainly is not one that we should look for in the young.

Cases of apoplexy, epilepsy and paralysis are, in general, too strongly marked to be mistaken, but the symptoms when the heart is affected are those of syncope or collapse.

Boston, May 11th, 1839.

ARTICLE V. *Remarks on Cholera Infantum.* By HARVEY LINDSLEY, M. D., of Washington D. C.

In looking over the returns of deaths as made to the Board of Health of the city of Washington, I have been struck with the very large proportion of children under two years of age, and on examining into the causes of this fatality, have remarked that, from the month of July to September inclusive, affections of the bowels have been exceedingly numerous.

For example, it will be seen by the following table, that of the whole number of deaths in the month of July and August nearly one half, and in two instances *more than one-half*, were under two years of age; and that of this number, almost three fourths died of what is usually termed here "summer complaint," under which general terms are included cholera infantum and simple diarrhoea of children. Also, that the cases were much more numerous in July and August than in June, that a slight diminution took place in September, and that in October the number was again very small.

1837.	Whole No. of deaths.	Under 2 years of age.	Chol. Infant.
June	30	14	4
July	31	14	10
August	52	21	14
September	42	18	3
October	28	6	2

[* A notice of some interesting researches, by M. Devergie, on the cause of sudden death, will be found in our No. for February, 1839.—ED.]

1838.	Whole No. of deaths.	Under 5 years of age.	Chol. Infant.
June	18	7	8
July	41	25	15
August	59	28	22
September	50	26	14
October	33	13	9

The ratio of cases of infantine cholera in the above table is about the same as that exhibited by the record for several years past, and this may therefore be assumed as the proportion of victims annually destroyed by this fatal disease in Washington, during the months referred to. With respect to the accuracy of the returns, I would merely remark that they were made under my immediate superintendence as President of the Board of Health and that every pains was taken to have them as correct as possible, though I am aware that implicit reliance cannot be placed upon any statistics of this description.

In consideration of the frightful mortality of this disease, and of the immense numbers who are thus every year hurried to an untimely grave, I believe that the attention of the profession cannot be called too often or too earnestly to it, that every physician may be familiar with its history and be prepared to adopt the best known means of controlling the dreadful malady.

It is with this view simply, and not with the expectation of adding much, if any thing, to our knowledge of the disease, or of bringing forward any new remedial measures, that I am induced to offer these cursory remarks to the consideration of the profession. And if I can aid in ascertaining with more precision, the relative value of the numerous therapeutic agents now in vogue or can, in one solitary instance, prevent the wasting of valuable time in the employment of doubtful or injurious remedies, I shall consider my labour amply repaid.

I have, for several years past, devoted most particular and anxious attention to this disease as it has occurred in my own family and among numerous patients, and I feel perfectly satisfied that some at least of the ordinary modes of treating it can be advantageously modified.

Symptoms. This disease presents considerable variety in its mode of attack: sometimes coming on as a simple diarrhoea, which form it may retain for several days, without nausea, pain or fever. These discharges perhaps increased gradually in frequency: the stomach becomes disordered and vomiting takes place. Fever now makes its appearance: the extremities are cold; there is pain in the abdomen on pressure; the countenance assumes a painful and harassed expression; the pulse is generally small, corded and irritable, though occasionally more full and soft; the fever is of an exceedingly irregular and intermittent character, with decided exacerbations towards evening; while the extremities are generally cold and the skin pale denoting a languid and deficient circulation; there are evident determinations of blood

to the head and abdominal viscera, which become hot and burning; the eyes often, perhaps generally, partake of this excitement, being red and fiery and suffused with blood, though they are sometimes languid and dull, and when the patient sleeps they are seldom entirely closed; the tongue is usually of a brownish white, slightly furred and dry, or hard and reddish; the skin on the forehead is tight and sticks close to the bone; the cheeks lose their fullness and colour; the nose is pointed and sharp and the lips become pale and thin; the abdomen swells from flatulency and the feet from œdema; the little sufferer moans and tosses about continually; his perceptions are dull and he takes little notice of surrounding objects and will scarcely be disturbed by flies on his face or even on the eyes. As the disease advances in violence, the thirst is most tormenting and unquenchable, and the vomiting incessant, every thing being rejected as soon as swallowed; in the more unmanageable fatal cases, all these symptoms are rapidly aggravated, the spasmodic action of the bowels is communicated to the whole system, and the last debt of nature is soon paid.

In many, perhaps in the majority of cases, cholera infantum comes on without the premonitory diarrhœa, the little patient being seized at once, when in apparently perfect health, with violent vomiting and purging, which may put at defiance our best devised plans of treatment and prove fatal in two or three days, or even in one. It is not unusual, however, whether it make its onset mildly or violently, for the vomiting to cease after a few days, while the purging shall continue for several weeks and finally exhaust the patient, or eventually yield to the remedial course.

The appearance of the evacuations during the progress of the complaint is exceedingly various; there are usually little or no natural feces in the discharges; these are sometimes thin and watery, sometimes more thick and consistent; sometimes they are green, or brown, or white, or yellow; sometimes exceedingly copious and passed without pain, and sometimes very sparing and accompanied with great tenesmus and griping; sometimes very offensive and sometimes entirely inodorous; sometimes the food seems partially or fully digested and at others it is discharged unaltered by the stomach and intestinal canal.

The emaciation which takes place in cholera infantum is most rapid and seems surprising, even when we take into view, the incessant evacuations both upwards and downwards, and that hardly a particle of food is properly digested. No matter how full and plump the child may be at the onset of the disease, in a very few hours, the falling off becomes apparent. The limbs, particularly, exhibit the melancholy change: the skin is dry and rough, and the emaciation continues to advance, unless the disease be controlled by remedies, or arrested by death, till the body resembles a skeleton, having literally little besides skin and bone.

Diagnosis. Little need be said on this branch of our subject, as it is

impossible to mistake this disease for any other: and where it runs into or resembles the analogous diseases of dysentery or diarrhoea, the treatment should be the same as we would direct, if they had constituted the original complaint.

Prognosis. It is extremely difficult, or rather wholly impossible for even the most skilful and experienced physician, to do more than form a guess at the result of any given case of cholera infantum. Scarcely any disease is more uncertain in its duration, more variable in its symptoms, or oftener disappoints the practitioner as to its final issue. It is often suddenly and most unexpectedly fatal, while at other times patients recover under the most desperate circumstances.

We may, however, usually expect a favourable result, when we find the pulse becoming slower and fuller; the alvine dejections less frequent, and especially when they assume a natural consistence and a brownish yellow colour; the temperature of the skin more equable and regular, the head and abdomen losing their preternatural heat, and the extremities their unusual coldness; and especially when the irritability of the stomach wholly subsides and the food is readily and completely digested.

On the other hand, when the symptoms* previously enumerated march steadily onward, unrelieved by medicine and unaffected by time, we may look for a fatal termination. In these cases, however, there is, as already mentioned, great variety, and entire uncertainty as to the period of dissolution. Sometimes death occurs in two or three days, oftener not under two or three weeks and occasionally the patient lingers as many months. If the average duration of the disease could be ascertained, it would probably be found not to vary much from eighteen to twenty days.

Pathology. Inasmuch as cholera infantum prevails extensively, and in fact almost exclusively during the heat of the summer and autumn; as it is most violent and fatal in those seasons, when there is the greatest amount of moisture combined with excessive warmth, and of course the most extensive prevalence of marsh and vegetable miasmata; as it greatly diminishes or ceases entirely on the approach of cold weather; as, in fine, we find it to be produced by the same causes and to be co-extensive in its duration and severity, with the bilious autumnal fevers of our country, it is natural to consider it a mere variety of this class of diseases.

That it does not arise, as some have supposed, from the irritation produced by dentition, is to my mind perfectly evident—because it frequently occurs before that process has commenced, because it is often wanting when the dental irritation is greatest, and because it prevails only at particular

* Dr. Dewees in his valuable work on the diseases of children, speaks of a symptom, which I have looked for very carefully but have never been able to find, except in one or two cases: it is a crystalline eruption upon the chest, of an immense number of watery vesicles, of a very minute size.

seasons of the year. There is no doubt, however, that in children who suffer much from this process of nature, cholera is a more dangerous complaint and more frequently fatal, just as it would be from any other source of irritation superadded to the original disease. Dentition, therefore, as well as irregularities and imprudences in diet, and exposures to wet and cold may be exciting and exaggerating causes of cholera—while still the grand source of mischief—the “*causa causarum*” will be found in the long continued heat of our summer, combined with marsh effluvia.

It may occur at any time during infancy, though the most fatal period is the second summer, and hence, the child is thought to be pretty safe if it escape that trying season. This disease has been frightfully destructive in particular families here—in some, as many as four or five children in succession having been carried off by it.

The system in infancy seems peculiarly susceptible to disease, the least irregularity in diet, or the slightest exposure to atmospheric vicissitudes, being often sufficient to bring on a severe attack of sickness. It is not surprising, therefore, under these circumstances, when we consider the great vascularity of the skin at this period of life, its excessive irritability, and the intimate connection between the due discharge of its functions and a healthy state of the abdominal viscera—that a long exposure to a heated atmosphere, especially when loaded with miasmatic exhalations, should render the cutaneous vessels unequal to their task of circulating the blood; that in consequence, the circulation should be diminished: the blood driven in upon the central organs, and that diarrhoea, cholera, or inflammation of the viscera be the speedy result.

The appearances observed on dissection fully confirm these views of the pathology of cholera infantum. The thorax is usually found in a perfectly normal condition: the brain in recent cases presents few or no traces of morbid action, and although congestion and sometimes effusion, (constituting hydrocephalus,) are observed in patients who have lingered for several weeks, yet these symptoms can readily be accounted for on the principle of the intimate sympathy existing between this organ and the deranged.

It is in the viscera of the abdomen that the chief traces of mischief are to be looked for. The vessels of the liver, stomach and intestines are unduly distended with blood: the effects of inflammation may often be discovered throughout the whole intestinal canal and particularly in the small intestines: ulceration and even abrasion sometimes occur; dark purple spots may be seen scattered over the mucous coat of the stomach and duodenum while the large intestines are generally found in nearly a healthy condition.

The liver is almost universally engorged with blood, and in cases of long standing greatly enlarged: a large quantity of bile is generally found in the

* In 1836, I dissected a child 18 months old, that had been sick ten weeks, whose liver was so immensely increased in size as to fill very nearly one half of the abdomen.

gall bladder, sometimes of a dark green colour and at others pale, or almost white. I have seldom noticed any morbid appearances in the pancreas or spleen: while in three or four cases in my dissections, the bladder was quite empty and exceedingly shrivelled—a fact, not mentioned by most writers on this disease.

Treatment. Removal to the country in cholera infantum, like visiting a warm climate in consumption, is considered a sovereign remedy, and one almost indispensable to a cure, by many persons both in and out of the profession. The fallacy, not to say folly, of the idea in the one case, (in a great many instances of consumption,) is, however, now beginning to be realised and acknowledged; and I have no doubt that a more extensive experience, and a more accurate observation of the effects of removal to the country in the other case, will convince the most credulous, that its beneficial effects have been vastly overrated.

Let me not be misunderstood. It is highly probable, perhaps certain, that in the narrow, crowded and filthy streets of some parts of our large cities, children affected with cholera would be benefitted by a removal to the country, where they might breathe a purer air, obtain a more healthy and abundant supply of food, and enjoy better opportunities for invigorating exercise. But, unfortunately, the people occupying such parts of our cities, are, as a general rule, the very persons whose straitened circumstances forbid their adopting this, to them, important remedy.

The practical question then recurs, how far it is advisable for those who reside in airy, well ventilated houses, with all the comforts, and perhaps luxuries of life at their command—with the facilities of having their children carried out every day (by means of servants, carriages, &c. &c.) how far it is advisable for them to sacrifice the thousand nameless conveniences of home, and go into the country to be crowded into small, uncomfortable rooms, far from medical aid, &c., is a point well worthy of mature consideration. Even in such cases, however, perhaps it might be admitted if they would seek an elevated, mountainous country, entirely free from marsh miasmata, and with a decidedly cooler atmosphere than the one they have left; that the change would be eminently beneficial, these latter advantages more than counterbalancing the inconveniences before referred to.

But I do contend that the idea of going a few miles into the country, where the temperature is precisely the same, or probably more oppressive, from the smallness of the houses, and their being generally built of wood—where the miasmatic exhalations are equally or more abundant—removed from the comforts and conveniences of home—at a distance from suitable medical advice—the idea of being benefitted by *such* a change, I do assert, is perfectly preposterous. I have seen it tried again and again, by twenty children being sent in every direction, north, south, east and west, within twenty miles from Washington, and almost universally, they have returned

worse than they left, or have found their grave where they sought renewed health.

The situation of Washington is, to be sure, somewhat different from that of our large cities; and the above remarks are more applicable to it than to them. Our streets are all very wide, a very few of them compactly built; of course, there is no deficiency of ventilation. In addition to this, it should be remarked that the city is more healthy than the surrounding country; hence, nothing is gained as it respects malaria, by removing from one to the other.*

An error, too, is not unfrequently committed in delaying the removal too long, until the patient becomes very weak and almost exhausted, and is entirely unable to bear without injury the fatigue of travelling. In consequence of neglecting this precaution, I have known a child to be sent away almost in articulo mortis and to die on the route, to the great grief, as well as serious inconvenience of its friends.

If, then, a removal to the country in cholera infantum be recommended, let a cool, elevated, healthy spot be selected, and let the change be made before death shall have already marked the victim as his own. In those cases, where a change of residence is not thought advisable, a very good substitute may be found in carrying the child out every pleasant day in a carriage, or the nurse's arms, either into the surrounding country, or merely in the immediate neighbourhood of its residence.

Emetics and Anti-Emetics. The first thing to be done where the disease is fully formed, that is, where nausea and vomiting exist, is, if possible, to allay the irritability of the stomach, in order that the remedies we recommend may be retained. Some physicians, perhaps a majority of those who have written on the subject, advise that the treatment be commenced with an emetic, whether there be nausea or not. It seems to me, that such authors cannot have reflected on the peculiar delicacy and excessive irritability of the organ upon which they propose to operate. Late writers, however, and among them the judicious Dewees, condemn this practice. An emetic most certainly should never be administered in this disease, unless, upon most careful inquiry, we have ascertained that the child has taken some improper article of food, (as raisins,) which probably is still in the stomach,

[* On reference to the writings of Drs. Rush (*Med. Inq. and Obs.* Vol. II.) and Dewees (*A Treatise on the Phys. and Med. Treatment of Children*, p. 426,) it will be found that these eminent men testify to the great benefit which they have observed to be obtained in every stage of cholera infantum, by a removal of the patient to country air; and we believe that the experience of every practitioner of Philadelphia, is confirmatory of this statement. For our own part, we are led to believe that a mere change of air is often useful, for we have seen much advantage in some cases, where the disease, after being cured, has recurred in the country, from a return to the city. This of course can only be the case where the town house is spacious and airy.—ED.]

and which may have given rise to the attack; and even in such cases, our object can generally be accomplished by simply encouraging the vomiting already begun, by means of warm water, or warm chamomile tea; which may be continued until every foreign substance is discharged. If an emetic article ever is given, it should be nothing stronger than ipecacuanha.

It is much easier, however, to keep up, than to allay the disordered action of the stomach. I have little faith in most of the anti-emetic articles usually employed for this purpose. I have tried them all, and generally found them useless, sometimes evidently injurious. I refer particularly to peppermint, lime-water, spices, toast and water, laudanum, &c. Dewees recommends strong coffee without sugar, or milk in teaspoonful doses as an efficient remedy. This I have never found to answer, except in two or three cases, partly, perhaps wholly, because it is extremely disagreeable to children from its powerfully bitter taste; an objection, certainly in itself of no little weight. I place much more reliance on another remedy, which he likewise recommends in very strong terms, viz. an injection of a gill of warm water, in which are dissolved two or three teaspoonfuls of common salt, to be repeated *pro re nata*.

This is undoubtedly a valuable remedial measure, and will, perhaps, effect as much and succeed as often as any single means that we have. The slight irritation of the rectum produced by the stimulus of the salt, exerts a powerful derivative tendency in calming the excitement of the stomach, and I have very often witnessed its beneficial effects in adults as well as children. I have also derived great and marked advantage from hot fomentations to the epigastric region of spirits of camphor and laudanum, in the proportion of three parts of the former to one of the latter. It is important that the liquid should be as warm as the patient can well bear,* and the cloths should be frequently renewed. A strong infusion of hops, with or without laudanum, applied in the same way, will also generally answer an admirable purpose. If these remedies fail, I resort to the mustard plaster, made wholly of mustard and warm water or vinegar, without any admixture of flour or corn meal; to be kept on until considerable redness of the skin is manifest. This is a prompt, and generally a powerful remedy. Simultaneously with these means, I almost invariably direct frictions to the lower extremities (if they be cold and pallid as they usually are) with warm dry flannel, or warm brandy, with a little mustard or cayenne pepper mixed in it. These should be perseveringly continued, until a glow is produced, if

* The physician cannot be too particular in his directions as to the mode of applying fomentations. I am perfectly satisfied, from careful inquiry and observation, that these and many similar remedies, often fail of the desired effect, and even do harm, because they are unskillfully or carelessly employed. This remark may be extended particularly to the use of injections and external frictions.

possible, on the surface, and will be found to aid materially the object in view. Indeed, this last means I almost invariably prescribe once or twice every day, throughout the progress of the disease, so long as the state of the cutaneous circulation indicates its propriety, and I am very confident that if judiciously and regularly employed, it will do very much towards equalizing the circulation, abstracting the blood from the internal organs, and diffusing it equally over the whole system—a result of vast importance in accomplishing a cure.

Whether these remedies are efficient or not in checking the vomiting, (though they very seldom fail,) I do not wait to try other means, but proceed without further delay to the* administration of what is undoubtedly our most important therapeutic agent in this disease, viz.

Calomel.—This efficient remedy is recommended to us, not only by its powerful influence over the hepatic system, in relieving its engorgement and bringing on a healthy flow of bile—but because, on account of its diminutive bulk and freedom from disagreeable taste and smell, it is much more easily administered to children, and more readily retained by the disordered stomach, than any other purgative whatever. These latter considerations alone, are sufficient to entitle it to a decided preference. But when in addition, it has been proved by the concurrent testimony of our most skilful and enlightened physicians, for nearly half a century, to be so peculiarly adapted to the state of the system as to deserve almost the title of specific, the most skeptical or timorous can hardly hesitate to administer it.

In the language of Dr. Edward Miller of New York—one of the most skilful, learned and brilliant physicians this country has ever produced, and to whom I believe, we are chiefly indebted for the introduction of this remedy in cholera infantum—"as the stomach and intestines are found to require evacuation, the most safe and unequivocal means, it is conceived, may be found in the use of calomel, accommodated in its dose to the age of the patient, and to other circumstances. As long as mere evacuation can be requisite or admissible, this medicine uncombined will prove efficacious, gentle and safe."

* Mild cases of cholera, and particularly in the forming stage, where there is merely diarrhoea, with little or no vomiting, can occasionally be broken up at once, either by the oleaginous mixture, or what I prefer, the aromatic syrup of rhubarb and tincture of opium in very minute doses. To a child fifteen months old, I generally order thirty drops of the syrup, and one drop of laudanum every three or four hours, to be continued till the discharges become less frequent and more natural. The practice of checking the evacuations at once, by full doses of laudanum and astringents, without purgation, cannot be too severely reprobated as not only injurious, but highly dangerous. The repose and relief afforded to the bowels, are but temporary and delusive. While there is great reason to apprehend a translation of the disease to the brain, producing serious inflammation of that organ, and perhaps terminating in hydrocephalus.

Great care should be taken that the dose be accurately adapted to the symptoms of the disease, and the age of the child. To a patient, a year old, it will seldom be proper to give more than a fourth or a third of a grain every hour: the medicine to be continued, till a decided change takes place in the appearance of the evacuations, which will be manifested by their becoming more copious, less frequent and of a dark brown or green colour. As soon as these alterations have been effected, we shall generally find the little sufferer much relieved—his skin becoming soft and moist—his eye brighter and his countenance indicating freedom from pain and anxiety. It may still however be necessary to continue the calomel, but the interval may be extended to two or three hours: if the symptoms seem to demand it, the same course may be pursued on the second and even on the third day, though it is seldom necessary to carry it so far.

The mode of administering the calomel is a matter of considerable consequence. The common method, combining it with very finely powdered white sugar and throwing it dry into the mouth, answers very well in some cases. I have often remarked, however, that where there is considerable fever, and the mouth in consequence parched and dry, the child has great difficulty in swallowing it, as there is no saliva to dissolve it, and retching and no little irritation are necessarily caused. In such cases—and indeed generally—I prefer mixing the calomel in a few drops of the syrup of rhubarb. This, when well prepared, is almost always agreeable to the child, and I am satisfied that it exerts a favourable influence on the action of the medicine, diminishing or rather removing entirely its tendency to gripe and making it more thorough and speedy in its operation.

Bleeding. Bleeding is seldom required in this complaint, and when resorted to, should be practised with circumspection and in moderation: but still there are cases, where the fever is high, the irritability of the stomach, great, or a decided determination of blood to the brain, in which the application of leeches to the abdomen or the head would be eminently useful.

Opiate Injections. Some authors recommend the administration of injections of starch and laudanum in a very early stage of the disease, even before the calomel has ceased to operate: a practice I could never bring myself to imitate, being persuaded that it must be injurious if adopted before the engorgement of the liver and intestines is relieved. After this has been accomplished and the system free from fever, I have always found them useful, when skilfully given and the laudanum in appropriate quantity—particularly at night, in order to keep the child quiet and afford him some undisturbed sleep.

Warm Bath. The warm bath is unquestionably a remedy of considerable power in cholera infantum, when judiciously directed and skilfully administered; and yet I am persuaded from a want of proper care, it as often does harm as good. Careful consideration should be given by the practitioner that

the situation of the patient demands it and very particular directions to the attendants as to the best mode of application, and then when followed by stimulating frictions we will always find it useful—softening the skin, unloading the engorged viscera and equalising the circulation. It may be employed in almost any stage of the disease, if the strength be not too much exhausted.

Blisters. Blisters to the abdomen, thighs, calves of the leg, &c., to relieve nausea and to act derivatively, are rather favourite remedies with many physicians. I seldom prescribe them for children—because, although means of decided efficacy, they so often (in spite of the utmost care) become troublesome and occasionally dangerous from excessive irritation—and because, we have a very efficient substitute in the various kinds of stimulating frictions, syrup of rhubarb, sweet spirits of nitre, &c.

After some of the more violent symptoms have been subdued or abated, and the evacuations rendered more natural by the foregoing treatment—and which amendment usually takes place in from one to three days—there will in a great many cases still remain indications of disordered action, as occasional nausea and vomiting, more or less diarrhoea, fever, &c., &c. This state of the system requires great caution on the part of the medical attendant, that he adapt his remedies to the precise situation of his patient, calomel is no longer necessary; opium and astringents would do harm. I have here for two or three years past, with very great advantage, directed a combination of the aromatic syrup of rhubarb, and sweet spirits of nitre, according to the annexed formula. R. syrup. rhei. aromat. spt. æther. nitras. ʒʒ ʒij; sacch. alb. ʒi; mucil. g. arabic. ʒij; M., of which a teaspoonful every hour or two will form a dose. If there is no fever, I generally add a small quantity of paregoric, and if there be indications of acidity in the primæ viæ a little prepared chalk. This simple prescription, continued if necessary for two or three days, will in a great many cases, with the symptoms supposed, afford entire relief and effect a speedy cure. The rhubarb being slightly astringent and the nitre diaphoretic, form precisely the compound we want. Whereas if we should prescribe the more powerful astringents combined with laudanum, we might arrest the diarrhoea more rapidly, but in nine cases out of ten, we should thereby bring on fever with probably irritation, perhaps inflammation, of the brain—or else, the diarrhoea would soon return with increased violence and be more difficult than ever to control.

Sugar of Lead and Dover's powder. Where the diarrhoea proves obstinate—not yielding to the above prescription and especially where it assumes a chronic form, I do not believe there is a more efficient remedy in the whole *Materia Medica*, than sugar of lead and Dover's powder in doses carefully proportioned to the age and condition of the patient. If there is much fever or irritability of the stomach, neither would of course be proper. I give this combination in those cases where the more powerful astringents as

kino, catechu, &c., are usually administered, and after a very careful comparative estimate of the powers of the two classes of articles, and feel very confident that in a vast majority of instances, where any thing of the kind is proper, that the lead and Dover's powder will act more kindly and efficiently than any thing else. The dose should be very small and its effects carefully watched, and the apothecary should be particular to mix the ingredients thoroughly and divide them accurately. For a child eighteen months I usually prescribe the following formula: R. sup. acet. plumb. gr. iv; pulv. Dover. gr. i. Ft. pulv. No xij; one of which may be given every hour, or every second or third hour, according to the urgency of the symptoms and the effects of the medicine. My objection to kino and catechu is, that they almost invariably produce straining and tenesmus, diminishing the quantity of the evacuations, but not their number. They frequently act beneficially in the diarrhoea of adults, but in that of children, I am satisfied they should seldom if ever be used.

In the treatment of cholera infantum, I place my chief reliance on the above remedies, variously modified and combined to suit the endless varieties of constitution and symptoms. There are, however, various useful adjuvants in the management of bad cases which should not be overlooked. Among these may be enumerated, the chalk julep—gum arabic water—flaxseed tea—infusion of slippery elm bark—lime water—balsam of copaiva—spirits of turpentine—charcoal mixed in mucilage of gum arabic, &c., &c. Some of these articles will aid much in effecting a cure. When the stools are slimy and the mucous tissue of the bowels much disordered, I have derived great advantage from the spirits of turpentine, in doses of five to fifteen drops several times a day. The balsam of copaiva will answer the same indications very well. Mucilaginous drinks should always be at hand for the child when thirsty. Gum arabic, and slippery elm bark make as good as any.

In the chronic form of the disease, where the discharges seem to be kept up by habit or mere debility, tonics will be highly useful. A great variety have been recommended and all of them are probably beneficial. I seldom employ any but quinine and the chalybeate preparations. These are readily taken and answer every indication. The quinine may be given in powder or solution, the minuteness of the dose being a great recommendation. In prescribing the preparations of iron, I use either the *mistur. ferri compos.*, or the following formula of Dr. Chapman. R. sal. martis gr. ij; acid. sulphur. gtt. x; sach. alb. ʒi; aq. font. ʒi; of which a dose is one drachm, repeated *pro re nata*.

Flatulency is often a very troublesome symptom, when the disease has continued a long time. Most of the ordinary aromatics and carminatives will give some relief, though I prefer the anise seed tea, or small quantities of the volatile alkali in cinnamon water. This latter prescription has seldom failed in my hands.

One great difficulty we have to contend with in the treatment of the sequelæ of cholera infantum, is the constant tendency of the patient to relapse. He may be relieved or cured of one attack, and in two or three weeks, perhaps, he will be seized again; and this may occur time after time, till the patience of the friends, and perhaps of the physician, is completely exhausted; they despair of final success and allow the disease to take its course, which consequently soon terminates in death. This is a very erroneous view of the proper power of remedial treatment, and I have no doubt, that many a life has been sacrificed to it, which might readily have been saved, by again recurring to the same or similar remedies, which were successful in the first instance. As soon as a relapse takes place, not an hour should be lost, but immediate means adopted to check and control it. As a general rule, if the healthy interval has been short, calomel will not be needed. After giving a single dose of castor oil, syrup of rhubarb or magnesia, we may resort to some of the remedies recommended in the former part of this article. And this course should be persevered in, as long as the relapses recur, or the complaint continues. I have repeatedly seen children attacked from six to ten times in one season, and yet carried safely through them all, while there is every reason to suppose, that, if the parents had yielded to the too prevalent notion that medicine was of no avail after the first or second attack, they would soon have paid the forfeit of so mistaken a notion. We should, therefore, never intermit our efforts as long as life continues—and there is no disease, perhaps, in which perseverance and patience are so often rewarded by success as this. Great care should of course be taken to adapt our remedies to the debilitated and altered condition of our little patients.

Diet. If the child has not been weaned, and the mother has an abundance of wholesome milk, little else is needed, or should be allowed in the way of food, during the whole progress of the disease. The mucilaginous drinks before referred to may be given to quench thirst and amuse the patient, but beyond these, the less they take as a general rule the better. Where the child is weaned, however, or the supply of milk is scanty, or its quality impaired, it will be necessary to resort to other articles of food—which should always be prescribed by the physician himself, and not left to the whims and caprices of the nurse, as unless this part of our duty is carefully and faithfully attended to, every thing else will be of little avail. The farinaceous articles, as arrow-root, sago, tapioca, barley, rice, &c. with milk and sweetened with loaf sugar, should be directed. These, with or without a little spice, will afford a sufficient variety, and can be made very palatable to the fickle appetite of the little patient. Occasionally, in cases of long standing, benefit has been derived from allowing a small piece of ham or salt fish.

Great care should be taken of the child's dress, that it be made of proper materials and that it be not capriciously changed from thick to thinner articles so as to incur the risk of checking perspiration and causing a chill.

A flannel shirt, made to fit pretty tightly and to cover the whole abdomen, should be worn for the first two years without intermission. If it be oppressively warm, it may be of a light kind for summer. This, with long woollen or worsted stockings, will constitute the most important article of dress, and will guard pretty effectually against sudden vicissitudes of temperature, whatever else may be worn.

ARTICLE VI. *Report of Cases Treated in the Baltimore Almshouse Hospital.* By SAMUEL ANNAN, M. D., Senior Physician to the Institution.

DYSENTERY. This disease did not entirely disappear until the beginning of winter. Since that time no new cases have been presented; and the obstinate diarrhoea which succeeded the acute attack, in a few instances, has either been cured, or the cases have terminated fatally. The plan of treatment mentioned in my former report, was attended by the happiest results, in all the cases which were seen early. The relief from the most distressing symptoms was immediate; and a perfect cure speedily followed. My subsequent experience, and the condition of the mucous membrane of the colon, as seen in several cases, on examination after death, have brought me to the conclusion, that this mode of treatment, which answers so admirably in the early stages, must be materially modified, or totally changed, in order to suit the more advanced periods of this painful and dangerous disease.

Dysentery is known to be an inflammation of the colon and rectum, occasionally extending a short distance into the small intestines. This inflammation, sooner or later, according to its greater or less degree of intensity, produces softening and ulceration of the mucous membrane, its primary seat. Sphacelus, denoted by blackness or lividity, and softness of this membrane, the muscular coat occasionally partaking of this softness, is a less frequent occurrence. Where the disease has existed for any length of time, extensive ulceration, with softening of those portions of the mucous membrane, not destroyed by the ulcers, is the common appearance. The extent to which this ulceration sometimes proceeds, before life is destroyed, is very surprising. I have seen the greatest part of the rectum and colon, almost one continued ulcer, portions of the lining membrane in a state of red fungous elevation, being interposed here and there; by which the ulcerated spaces were separated from each other.

From this statement of the morbid appearances, it is manifest, that when the disease has advanced so far, that disorganization of the mucous membrane has taken place, it is worse than folly to attempt to cure it by the administration of even the mildest cathartics. If softening and ulceration

exist, the period has gone by, at which we might expect to afford relief, by gently stimulating the diseased membrane, in order to make it deplete itself, by augmenting its secretion, and thus remove the engorgement from its distended vessels. The vitality of these engorged vessels has, by this time, been impaired to that degree, that they cannot be excited to a secretory effort, the effect of which would be, a tendency towards a restoration to healthful action. Stimulation will now only increase the morbid action, and hasten, or extend the ulceration. Calomel and opium, and large doses of castor oil, are therefore inadmissible. Instead of allaying the irritation, diminishing the pain, and causing the patient to feel more comfortable; after the effect of the opium goes off, the symptoms will be aggravated; the soreness and tenderness of the abdomen, will be increased; the tormina and tenesmus rendered more harassing. This is the state of things, which has brought laxatives into disrepute. Their reiterated administration has only served to make the patient worse, and it has in consequence been inferred, that they are always injurious.

It is impossible to specify any particular time, at which the changes of the mucous membrane, of which I have spoken, take place. So much depends upon the violence of the disease, and the strength of the patient to resist. This general rule, however, may be laid down, viz, that the longer the time which has elapsed from the commencement of the attack, the greater is the risk from the exhibition of large doses of purgative medicine, and the greater the necessity for other modes of depletion, proportioned to the strength of the patient. It should also be remembered, that the case may not be seen, until the strength has been so much exhausted, that depletion of every kind, may be altogether inapplicable. Such cases will generally have a fatal termination. In a few instances, under careful management, they nevertheless recover. An intractable diarrhoea continues until the ulcers cicatrize, and the tender parts regain their healthful condition.

In the treatment of dysentery of several days standing; where the attack has been violent from the beginning, and the sufferings of the patient are great, blood letting, both general and local, is plainly indicated. We have a dangerous inflammation to manage, which is threatening disorganization of an important part of the organism; and our most powerful remedies should be employed, with an energy proportioned to the strength of the patient, and the character of the disease. Blood should be abstracted copiously from the arm, and cups or leeches, applied along the course of the colon, in the right and left iliac and lumbar regions, if it is thought the patient cannot well bear a repetition of the general bleeding. In robust persons local bleeding does little or no good, prior to the effectual subjugation of the vigorous action of the heart, by taking from the whole system. Where the patient will bear the loss of from twenty-four to thirty-two ounces of blood from the arm, local bleeding is not immediately necessary,

and may be reserved for a subsequent period. The next inquiry is, what should follow the bleeding? If too long a time has not elapsed, I am satisfied, that a full dose of calomel and opium, followed by castor oil and Dover's powder, as formerly recommended, is preferable to all other remedies. But it will be asked, what is too long a time? I can only reply, that I have thus treated persons, who had been as ill as they apparently could well be, for seven or eight days, and nothing done during all this time, with the effect of immediate relief, and final recovery. In some cases, one bleeding was all that was required; in others, two were requisite, the second being prescribed, one, two, or three days after the first. Occasionally cups were employed after the first bleeding. As we cannot specify the precise period when free purging becomes inadmissible, I apprehend we may come pretty near the true state of the case, by attending to the following circumstances.

If the patient has been ill during two or three weeks and is greatly reduced, it is plain enough, that the time for active treatment has passed. If on the other hand, he has been ill but a few days, and still retains considerable strength, bleeding and purging should be tried, and if relief of some permanency is procured, we may be encouraged to persevere in the purging plan. But if there is a speedy and perpetual recurrence of the tormina and tenesmus, as soon as the effect of the opium disappears, and along with this, there is an increase of the soreness and tenderness of the abdomen, along the course of the colon, it is obvious our remedies are doing harm, and a different and milder course must be adopted. In this state of things, the proper remedies are emollient and anodyne injections, fomentations and blisters to the abdomen, an occasional warm bath, at the temperature of 100°, Dover's powder to allay irritation and determine to the surface, with small doses of castor oil combined with laudanum, to carry off the acrid contents of the bowels. The best effects not unfrequently follow the administration of one or two teaspoonfuls of castor oil, with twenty drops of laudanum, night and morning. If the tenesmus should now and then become more troublesome under this treatment, an ounce of the oil, with fifty drops of laudanum, will give ease, and the small doses may then be continued. Even where there was ulceration, as far as I could judge, my patients always felt relieved by two or three pretty free evacuations, by castor oil. It is so much less irritating than the acrid secretions, that it is by comparison soothing and emollient. When the disease has become decidedly chronic, we must have recourse to the remedies of which I spoke in my former paper.

Pleurisy. Several cases of acute pleurisy have been admitted, through the course of the winter. They were all treated on a plan somewhat different from that usually practised, and with success, although the disease had existed, in every instance, from two or three days, to two weeks. To bleed with an unsparing hand from a large orifice, and in the manner best

calculated to make the speediest impression on the system, is the invariable recommendation of the best writers. If one bleeding fails to afford very decided relief, we are advised to repeat it in a few hours, and to resort to the operation again, at more or less distant intervals, according to the urgency of the symptoms, and the capability of our patient to bear further loss of blood. The general rule, adopted by some practitioners, as to the limits to which sanguineous depletion should be carried, is deduced from the strength of the patient, and the relief of the pain and irritability of taking in a full inspiration. In conjunction with the general bleedings, cups and leeches are to be applied to the affected side. This course of blood-letting, combined with purgatives, diaphoretics, diuretics, sedatives and mercury, occupies several days, and when the patient is thought to be in a proper state of preparation, the fever being sufficiently reduced, or in other words, brought down to the blistering point, blisters are directed to be applied over the seat of pain.

The plan which I have followed during a number of years, and in no instance has it failed of effecting a speedy cure, differs from the foregoing in the following particulars, viz: immediately after a free bleeding from the arm, a blister is applied to the side, and half a grain, or if that nauseates too much, a quarter of a grain of tartrate of antimony is given every two hours. Fifteen or twenty grains of calomel, combined with five or six of pulvis antimonialis, are given at bed time; and if the bowels are not acted upon two or three times, pretty freely, against morning, a moderate dose of Epsom salts, or castor oil is exhibited. After the purgatives have operated, recourse is again had to the antimony. The second night at bed time, ten or twelve grains of Dover's powder are given and repeated every night, and in the morning the antimony is resumed. In three, or four, or five days, the antimony may be discontinued, or the dose very much diminished. In very few cases have I found it necessary to repeat the bleeding from the arm, and cups and leeches have not been employed at all, neither is any other medicine for the most part required; inasmuch as the antimony generally keeps the bowels sufficiently open.

The objection which I suppose lies against the practice of postponing the application of the blister until the patient shall have been repeatedly bled, cupped and leeches, is, that although the first bleeding, by abstracting a certain portion of the circulating fluid, and reducing the action of the heart relieves the congestion of the affected vessels, and diminishes or entirely removes the pain, as the blood-vessels soon fill up again, and the heart recovers in a great degree its former power and force of action, lessened somewhat, it is true, by the blood being of a less stimulating quality from the increased quantity of serum it contains, the vessels of the inflamed pleura are distended afresh, and the pain, and fever which arise from it are renewed, of course accompanied by the dyspnoea. In this way the symptoms dis-

appear and reappear alternately, in greater or less degree, until the patient is so much reduced that there is not force enough in the heart's action to cause a return of the distension of the inflamed vessels. When bleeding is carried to this extent, the disease is subdued, and a blister is of comparatively little service. The patient will now get well under mild treatment, as fast as he can recover from the debility produced by the remedies.

But suppose the blister is applied immediately after the first bleeding, before the excitement has time to return with its former force, we have all the benefits of counter-irritation from this remedy; a new inflammation has been set up on the surface, directly opposite the principal seat of the original disease; arterial and nervous action are determined towards this part; and, as a necessary consequence, if the doctrine of counter-irritation is good for any thing, there is diminished action inside. The new disease draws off the morbid action from the old one, and the symptoms of pleurisy do not re-appear. Or it may be said, that the external stimulation rouses the latent powers of the vessels of the inflamed pleura, and they do not suffer themselves to be again dilated so as to cause pain. Whatever theory of counter-irritation we may adopt, there is no doubt of the fact, that the disease of the skin produced by a blister, does diminish internal inflammation. This is universally admitted; and the only question now at issue, is as to the time of applying it.

The objection brought against the early application is, that there is great danger that the irritation of the blister itself may increase the fever, to a degree which will more than counterbalance the good that might otherwise result from its remedial virtues. That the increase of the general excitement may augment, in place of lessening the local disease. This is a question of fact, which can only be settled by observation. I can only say that I have not found this to happen. On the contrary, the reverse has constantly occurred. The pain, the dyspnoea, the cough and the fever have all been diminished, and the patient has invariably expressed himself as being better. This, indeed, is what we might expect from sound physiological and pathological views of the subject. For, although it must be admitted that blisters are irritants, and if applied in a healthful condition of the system, would cause more or less fever; it is, notwithstanding, a fact, that where a much more intense irritation exists internally, as in the cases of pleurisy and peritonitis, the heart, through the medium of the nervous system, does not feel the irritation of the skin; but this inflammation, when compared with the more severe pleuritic affections, is as nothing; and in proportion as it relieves the symptoms of the diseased pleura, will it act as an anodyne, and allay morbid excitement; or, in other words, diminish fever. It is on this principle we explain the fact, that our patients will sometimes sleep during the whole time a blister is drawing; which, in many instances, is the first sleep they have had during several days and nights.

Case. Laceration of Urethra—Abscess of Leg—Phlebitis.—J. A—, *ætat.* 30, full and muscular, was admitted into the Almshouse Hospital, November 19th, 1838, in consequence of injury sustained by a fall, from no great height; but having come down astride of a board, the perineum received the whole force of his weight, and being a large heavy man, there was considerable contusion. On the afternoon of the same day, he was admitted, and I found him complaining of great pain in the perineum, with difficulty of passing his urine, which came away in small quantity, accompanied by a good deal of blood. The bladder could be plainly felt above the pubes, and was painful on pressure. There was no external wound, but the scrotum and perineum were black from ecchymosis. I attempted to introduce the catheter, intending to leave one of gum elastic in the bladder, being apprehensive from the injury done to the urethra, that there would be infiltration of urine into the scrotum and perineum. The instrument could not be passed farther than the membranous portion of the urethra, although different sizes were employed. Blood flowed freely from the penis during the trials; and what was much more gratifying, urine came away in sufficient quantity to relieve the bladder. Fomentations were applied to the perineum; the bowels opened with a laxative; and rest enjoined. I fully expected infiltration of urine, with a return of the retention; and that I should have to make free incisions into the scrotum and perineum, to allow the escape of the urine, and prevent extensive sloughing; and also to open a passage into the bladder, along the course of the urethra, from the perineum. Contrary to my expectations, there was no farther accumulation of urine in the bladder; neither was there any infiltration. The urine passed off by the urethra, as soon as the bladder was moderately full; some blood being also voided during several days; and each micturition being attended by excruciating pain. The pain, however, in a few days moderated, and then disappeared altogether. The discharge of blood ceased, the urine flowed freely, and I thought my patient was in a fair way to recover. The ecchymosis of the perineum and scrotum continued longer. I now came to the conclusion, that the urethra had not been lacerated, but simply contused; as I did not recollect any case of laceration of that tube, unaccompanied by infiltration of urine into the surrounding cellular structure.

About a week after the reception of the injury, a new symptom presented itself, viz: swelling and pain of the calf of the right leg; and in about another week, the left ankle also became painful and tumid. The swelling extended in the course of a few days, to the feet, which became cedematous and greatly distended. The right leg, as far up as the knee, also became cedematous. The pain was excruciating; and the skin, at first, was slightly reddened, especially that of the left ankle. Various applications were made to the inflamed parts. Emollient poultices were first tried; but as they gave no relief, they were soon exchanged for cooling lotions. White wash and spirit wash were applied, by means of cloths kept constantly wet with them. The former is the liquor plumbi subacetatis solutus, of Wood and Bache's Dispensatory. The latter consisted simply of water, and a small portion of proof spirit, to make the evaporation more rapid. These mitigated the pain but little, and the parts were then enveloped with cloths kept constantly wet with water as warm as could be borne. This gave more relief than any other application. His system had received such a shock, and the pulse was so feeble, that I did not think blood-letting admissible. He was, however, purged moderately, and low diet was prescribed.

No cause could be assigned for the inflammatory affection of the two

limbs. He did not complain of any injury having been done to them, when he came into the hospital. I was therefore disposed to regard the affection as an inflammation of the cellular and ligamentous tissues, arising, in a bad condition of the organism, from the urethral irritation. The swelling of the limbs continued to increase, the skin becoming pale from the effusion of serum in the sub-cutaneous cellular tissue; and he began to complain of pain extending up the thigh, along the course of the great blood-vessels, which was greatly aggravated on pressure; particularly at the upper part of the thigh, just below Poupart's ligament. The superficial veins of the thigh were now somewhat distended. There was no general tumefaction of the thigh. He gradually became more and more debilitated; the stomach became irritable; and he finally sunk on the 24th of December.

Autopsy 24 hours after death. A large abscess containing bloody pus, was found underneath the gastrocnemii muscles of the right leg, situated between them and the deeper muscles, and occupying two thirds of the leg, midway between the ankle and knee joints. The parts of the muscles adjacent to the abscess, were completely disorganised, being reduced to a soft pulpy mass. The posterior tibial, the popliteal, and the superficial femoral veins, and their continuation up to the junction of the common iliac with the vena cava, were lined with a thick, dense, false membrane, and filled with yellow pus. All the veins of the thigh were filled with pus in the same manner. None of these veins in which pus was seen, contained blood. The anterior tibial vein was not so much diseased as the others. At the termination of the common iliac vein, in the vena cava, a considerable quantity of a more solid matter was observed, apparently consisting of a mixture of lymph and pus, which blocked up the entrance into the vena cava, and probably prevented the pus from passing on towards the heart. There were redness and thickening of the ligamentous tissues around the left ankle, and some pus was found in the joint. A small abscess had also formed at the root of the great toe of the right foot. The bladder having been taken out with the penis, and the urethra slit up, a cavity about the size of a small walnut was seen at the beginning of the membranous portion of this tube, where it joins the bulb, into which both ends opened. The external end terminated abruptly, with a considerable depression, as if the tube had been cut off, then joined to the sac, and badly fixed. The end next the bladder was united to the sac by a smooth, level surface. The interior of the sac was lined by what seemed to be a perfect mucous membrane. The viscera were normal.*

Remarks. The calf of the right leg must have been severely contused by the fall; although he made no complaint of it. The pain about the region of the bladder was so excruciating, that the injury of the leg was not felt. The bloody pus contained in the abscess, proves that there was a contusion. The left ankle must also have been sprained. There was nothing peculiar about the phlebitis. It pursued its usual course, viz. effusion of lymph, formation of false membrane, and secretion of pus. The small

[* This case is an interesting one. It affords a marked example of traumatic phlebitis terminating in purulent depots, or what is considered by some writers, secondary abscesses. Some cases of a similar character are recorded by Dr. Watson, in his valuable memoir on *Secondary Abscesses*, in the No. of this Journal for November, 1837.—*na.*]

amount of tumefaction of the thigh, might at first view cause surprise; but when we reflect, that the passage of the blood through the veins appears to be completely interrupted in phlebitis, these vessels containing nothing but false membrane and pus; and that the arteries are but little dilatable, under the strongest action of the heart, and are diminished in diameter, in states of debility, in proportion as the weakness is greater or less; our surprise will cease. It is the dilatation of the veins, which are susceptible of a great degree of distension, which is the principal cause of swelling of parts, antecedent to effusion taking place. In phlebitis, the veins are entirely relieved from the force of the heart's contraction; therefore they cannot be subjected to congestion of blood; and if effusion does not take place into the surrounding tissues, there will be little swelling. With so complete an interception of the venous circulation, one might expect to find gangrene and sphacelus. There was not however either of these conditions observable in the thigh. The disorganization around the abscess, was manifestly the consequence of the inflammation arising from the contusion. Although this patient was too much debilitated to allow of bloodletting from the arm, if leeches had been at hand, he might perhaps have been benefitted by their application along the course of the inflamed vein; or to the leg, on the first appearance of the swelling. Still it is doubtful, whether they would have prevented suppuration.

The most remarkable part of this case is the laceration of the urethra, without infiltration of urine as the consequence. The urethra was plainly torn across, and entirely divided at the arch of the pubes; probably by being driven against the arch; and nevertheless no urine passed into the surrounding cellular tissue. As far as I remember, this is an unprecedented occurrence. The sac which was seen, must have been formed by an effusion of blood, which dilated the parts, and caused a consolidation of the cellular tissue; thus forming a cavity filled with blood. When this blood coagulated, its fibrine may have partially separated, and adhered to the surface of the cavity, and thus cemented the plates of the cellular tissue together so as to prevent the escape of the urine. Or previous to coagulation, the blood may have filled the interstices of the cellular tissue, so that when coagulation took place, the urine could not find a passage. However we may explain it, the fact is unquestionable; and the wonderful resources of the system, are well exemplified, in the reparation of the damages.

Dysentery—Chronic Arachnitis—Chronic Gastritis—Malformation of the Genital Organs. G. W. ætat. 32, an idiot, was admitted into the Alms House on the 3d of July; and shortly afterwards attacked by dysentery, which became chronic; and he gradually wasted away under a diarrhœa; which was not however very severe, but could not be entirely checked, and was occasionally aggravated without apparent cause. He complained of pain and soreness of the lower part of the abdomen, for which he was cupped and blistered, with partial and temporary relief. He died December 18th 1838.

Autopsy 36 hours after death. Brain. There was considerable thickening and consolidation of the arachnoid membrane, covering both hemispheres of the cerebrum. The entire membrane was pulled off without laceration, the processes of pia mater, which pass between the convolutions, coming out readily with it. After washing in clean water, it was held up to the light, and exhibited the usual transparency; but was firm and unyielding, and considerable force was required to tear it into fragments. It did not appear to be changed from the normal condition, on the base of the cerebrum; but on the inferior part of the cerebellum where it passes from the medulla oblongata, it was thickened; and underneath this part there was a small quantity of sero-gelatinous effusion. The cortical part of the cerebrum did not present any thing remarkable. The convolutions were of the usual depth and shape. Mr. Reynolds, one of the students of the house, was disposed to think the convolutions deeper than is common. There was some congestion of the medullary matter. Red points were numerous when it was sliced; and the veins of the lateral ventricles, on the surfaces of the thalami, and in the posterior and inferior horns of the ventricles, were greatly distended with blood. The plexus choroides was not much congested. The septum lucidum, the fornix, and the surfaces of the thalami, were slightly softened. No morbid change was observed in the cerebellum.

Thorax. The right lung was healthy. Two thirds of the upper lobe of the left lung, adjacent to its junction with the lower lobe, were in a state of splenization having become as solid as a piece of liver; and presented a smooth red surface, when cut into, without the smallest appearance of granulation. There were no adhesions of the pleuræ, on either side.

Abdomen. The stomach, over the whole interior, was of the colour of slate, perhaps not quite so dark a blue; and on stretching it, red vessels were observed underneath the blue surface, forming a red ground. The mucous coat was softened, and when scraped, both the blue and the red colours came off, leaving the whitish muscular coat bare. There was no ulceration of either the small or large intestines. The lower part of the ilium for about ten or twelve inches in extent, was of a dark mahogany colour; and the mucous coat could be scraped off in the form of a red pulp. Spots of red softening were seen in the caput cæcum and ascending colon; and in the sigmoid flexure and upper part of the rectum, there were numerous small tumours of a dark blue colour, the longest one-third of an inch in diameter, formed in the mucous coat, and resembling punctated melanosis. The liver was normal as to size, but was of a dark purple colour, both externally and internally; the yellow medullary matter having entirely disappeared.

Genitals. These organs presented an extraordinary malformation. Both of the testicles, of the normal size and feel, were contained in one tunica vaginalis, viz, that of the right side. They lay with what is commonly their anterior surfaces, directed towards each other; and were bound together by three or four bands passing off from their serous surfaces. The epididymis of the right testicle looked towards the right thigh; that of the left towards the left thigh. Two *vasa deferentia* were given off, one from each epididymis, and were traced into the pelvis, through the external ring, down to the bladder. These tubes were normal. In addition to them, there was a third tube, of much larger size, along its entire course from the testicles, being fully as large, or larger than the biggest goose quill, which passes out from between the two testicles, communicating with the *tubuli seminiferi* of both, as was proved by injecting these tubuli with quicksilver through it, and by it containing serum from one end to the other, and ter-

minated in the urethra of the apex of the prostate gland, viz, at the *caput gallinaginis*. About three or four inches from its termination it expanded, so as to be more than an inch in circumference internally; but it again contracted, so as to enter the urethra by a small opening. The two *vasa deferentia*, when about entering the abdomen through the external ring, attached themselves to the sides of this tube, and accompanied it to its entrance into the urethra, and opened into it, in the substance of the prostate gland. No *vesiculæ seminales*, diverging from the base of the prostate, were to be seen. This long tube appears to have been substituted for them. The coats of this tube were apparently the same, as those of the seminal vesicles, in other cases. After the entrance of the three ducts into the abdomen, they were nearly surrounded by the peritoneum; and also by a dense cellular coating; all of which formed a large cord, passing down into the pelvis. The external and internal abdominal rings appeared to be united into one, by the inner ring being drawn towards the tubercle of the pelvis. The spermatic cord consequently passed straight into the abdomen, there being no oblique canal. The ring was open, and there was a hernial sac, separated from the testicles by a thin cellular partition. This partition was covered on one side by the tunica vaginalis testis; and on the other by the peritoneum. The sac contained a portion of the ilium, which was early reduced, not having formed any attachments.

There was but one artery going down to the testicles; but it was about twice the size of the spermatic artery in ordinary cases; and it arose from the internal iliac, about an inch and a half, or two inches from the bifurcation of the common iliac artery. On the left side, an artery of not much smaller diameter, arose from the internal iliac, at the corresponding point; but instead of going out of the abdomen, through the rings, it ran forwards and upwards and terminated abruptly on the rectus abdominis muscle. The right spermatic vein originated from a large cluster of veins, in conjunction with the left, which cluster lay between the *vasa deferentia*, at the top of the testicles. The two veins continued together until they entered the abdomen, and then separated. The vein of the right side took the usual course upon the psoas muscle, and terminated in the vena cava. That of the left side was carried across the pelvis by a curious bridge which remains to be described. The fundus of the bladder did not pass forwards to the crest of the pubes, by about two inches. Just at the top of the bladder, there was a duplication of the peritoneum, two and a half inches wide at the symphysis pubis, which stretched from one side of the pelvis to the other, and was attached to the psoæ muscles and brims of the pelvis on each side, thus forming a complete bridge across the cavity. Along the upper edge of this fold of the peritoneum, between the two layers, the left spermatic vein passed from the right abdominal ring to the left side, ran upwards upon the psoas muscle, and terminated in the splenic vein. The penis was of the largest size and well formed. The opening of the external muscle of the left side, which forms the external ring, was normal.

Remarks. It is an established fact in embryology, that the testicles, up to the beginning of the seventh month of utero-gestation, are situated in the abdomen below the kidneys, one on each side of the spinal column, and occupy all the inner face of the ossa ilia. About the end of the eighth month they pass through the external abdominal rings; and towards the termination of the ninth month, are usually found in the scrotum. Now according to the

Centripetal Theory of Development, of M. Serres, the very young embryo consists of two halves, separated by a line of division, through the centre of the spinal column, and by the coalescence of these two portions, the perfect fœtus is formed. Where the organs are double after birth, each lateral half forms its own; and where they are single, as in the cases of the scrotum and penis, the two lateral halves, which are developed apart from each other, unite along the mesial line. These being admitted facts, the question arises, whether in the case above narrated, the two testicles, in opposition to the ordinary law of developements, were originally formed on the right side; or did the left one, during the progress of embryotic existence, and subsequently to the junction of the two lateral halves, pass over to the right side? If one of the spermatic veins had got crossed over to the left side, I should be inclined to adopt the first conjecture. This division of the blood-vessels, the artery going off from the right, and one of the veins terminating on the left side, makes it impossible to decide as to the original portion of the left testicle. The junction of the left spermatic vein with the splenic vein is also uncommon. The connection of the vasa deferentia, and likewise of a large central tube, with the tubuli seminiferi is, I suspect, unprecedented.

There is nothing in this case, as far as the structural condition of the cortical part of the brain is concerned, to favour the theory of M. Foville and Pinel Grandchamp. They have conjectured, that the cortical substance is the seat of intelligence, whilst the medullary is intended to preside over motion. They think they have discovered, that in cases of imbecility, the convolutions are small, and the cortical substance is reduced to a very thin layer. Neither the one nor the other was observed in the above case. It may nevertheless have been, that the functional disturbance produced by the chronic arachnitis, was sufficient to have caused the imbecility of mind.

Hemiplegia—Dysentery—Mental Aberration. G. W., ætat. 50, an old sailor, of intemperate habits, has been an inmate of the Almshouse since 1832. When first admitted was affected with hemiplegia of the left side. In walking his left leg was dragged along with difficulty; and was made to describe part of a circle; and he had very imperfect use of his left arm. His mind also was impaired, so that he was considered partially insane. He was extremely irritable, cross, and snappish; and ready to strike with the stick he used in walking, regardless of rank, any person who provoked him. He appeared to know what he was doing, and to understand what was said to him; but seemed to be incapable of self-control.

In the beginning of November he was attacked slightly with dysentery, which he suffered to run on without complaining, and it settled down into an intractable diarrhœa. He now became so offensive, from inability to restrain the discharges, that the attention of the head of the ward was attracted, and his case mentioned. The account the patient gave of his situation, was so confused that I could make nothing out of it; but the constant fecal discharges in bed, showed plainly the nature of the disease. Various remedies were prescribed; some of which he took, and others he refused. Two

or three times he seemed to be getting better; but he again relapsed to his former state; and he died on the 26th of December, 1838.

Autopsy. Brain. After removing the top of the cranium, on attempting to take off the dura mater, strong adhesions were found between the two surfaces of the arachnoid membrane; not only along the central margin of the right hemisphere, but also over the whole surface of the middle lobe of the right side. In the efforts to get the dura mater off, the arachnoid came away from the middle lobe, bringing with it the processes of pia mater from between the convolutions, and also portions of the cortical substance of the brain; which was found to consist of a soft pulpy matter, not changed in colour. On examination the whole of the middle lobe of the right hemisphere, with about half of the anterior and posterior lobes of the same side, were likewise found to be of the consistence of a soft pulp; so that on trying to lift a portion of it with the fingers, it tore asunder, showing it to be destitute of its usual adhesive properties. Both the medullary and cineritious matter were in this condition. The great mass of the left hemisphere was as firm and solid as when there is no disease of the brain, but the surfaces of the corpus striatum and thalamus of this side were slightly softened; as were also the septum lucidum, the fornix and corpus callosum. The last less so than the other two. There was an ounce or two of serum in the lateral ventricles, and a small portion under the arachnoid of the right hemisphere. The cerebellum was somewhat softened, but not in so great a degree as the cerebrum. The cineritious portion was here much softer than the medullary, and the left side was perhaps a little more altered than the right. The medulla oblongata and upper part of the spinal cord were normal.

Abdomen. There was red softening of the mucous coat of a portion of the middle and back part of the stomach; and the pyloric extremity was of a slate colour and softened. The colon and rectum exhibited marks of acute inflammation. There was red softening and ulceration of the mucous coat. The ulceration was not so extensive as is frequently observed; but was quite sufficient to account for the death of one with a constitution as much impaired as his was. The liver was of a dark purple colour; and nearly all the yellow medullary matter had disappeared.

Genitals. The testicles on examination showed the two surfaces of the *tunica vaginalis* of both sides, adherent over their whole extent. There was no other disease of the right one. It was perhaps rather smaller than usual. The left was manifestly in a state of atrophy. It was much smaller than the right. When cut into, but a small number of the tubuli seminiferi, could be seen between the anterior surface of the organ and the epididymis.

Remarks. The disease of the brain was amply sufficient to account for the hemiplegia and mental disturbance. M. Foville informs us, that in acute cases of madness, he has never observed adhesions of the membranes to the cortical substance, but that such adhesions are very frequent in chronic cases. This he imagines will explain the curable nature of recent maniacal affections, and the hopeless and incurable state of those who have long laboured under madness or dementia.

A large majority of those who die in this institution have been long addicted to habits of intemperance; and in every instance more or less of the effects of chronic gastritis is discovered. According to M. Andral the shades of colour which principally belong to this disease, are the gray slate

colour, the brown colour, and the more or less deep black colour. These discolourations, with preternatural redness, and thickening and softening of the mucous membrane, are the common morbid appearances.

The adhesion of the two surfaces of the tunica vaginalis testis indicated the previous existence of inflammation. Those pathologists who believe in a close sympathetic connection between the cerebellum and the testicles, would ascribe atrophy of the left testis to the morbid state of the left hemisphere of the cerebellum. I do not think that this connection is as yet sufficiently established to justify such an inference. Neither is it necessary in the present case. The evidences of previous inflammation would satisfactorily account for all the morbid appearances.

Apoplexy—Palsy. S. P., ætat. 30; habits intemperate; admitted May 12th, 1836. Three days ago, while intoxicated, he fell down in a fit, and remained in a state of insensibility for two hours. On regaining his senses, he found his right side partially paralysed. He can drag his leg along with some difficulty, and move his arm in an imperfect manner. Has no pain. Functions natural. He was bled, purged, and blistered on the back of the neck; and in four or five weeks was sent out of the hospital, still limping a little. Three months after, he was attacked with enteritis, for which he was bled, cupped, &c., and when in a state of convalescence, he was suddenly seized with a chill, to which fever succeeded. He now lost all power of voluntary motion; his speech was embarrassed, and his fæces and urine passed involuntarily. He was cupped, blistered, and purged; and became greatly emaciated and debilitated. Sloughs made their appearance on the sacrum, and right ear. His teeth and lips were covered with sordes. Pulse small and feeble, and his appetite gone. By degrees these symptoms abated. His pulse became natural. The slough separated, and the ulcers healed; and his general health became pretty good. The paralysis, however, still continued unabated. About the beginning of December, he had so far recovered the power of moving the left arm as to be able to feed himself with some difficulty. He did not regain the use of his legs, and was unable to stand or walk. He also continued to pass the fæces and urine in bed; and he could not articulate so as to be understood, except by those accustomed to his mumbling and muttering. The sensibility of skin was natural, and continued so to the last. In the beginning of January, 1839, his remaining strength began to fail, and he died on the 21st of that month.

Autopsy. The brain alone examined. There was slight opalescence of the arachnoid, and a small quantity of serum effused underneath it. The ventricles contained about an ounce of clear serum. There were a few hydatids in the choroid plexus. The left optic thalamus presented in its central part, two cavities, each half an inch in length, by three lines in breadth. They were at the distance of half an inch from each other. Their walls were of a dirty yellow colour, and soft. The softness and discolouration, did not extend more than two thirds of a line into the substance of the brain. The right optic thalamus, about its centre, also contained a cavity, about as large as a cherry stone, similar in every respect to those just mentioned. The pons varolii, when opened through its centre, exhibited a fourth cavity, half an inch long, and three lines broad. At the point of bifurcation of the basilar artery, there was an aneurismal sac, of spherical shape, half an inch in diameter. The walls of the sac were thick-

ened by the effusion of lymph; so that when emptied of its contents, it did not collapse. Some small patches of the coats of the basilar artery were likewise thickened.

Remarks. We have in this case a well marked example of the effects of habitual drunkenness upon the brain. The constant excitement had produced disease of the arterial system, and at length vessels were ruptured, and blood effused into the left optic thalamus. The ordinary processes of absorption of the extravasated fluid, and cicatrization of the lacerated brain, took place; and imperfect restoration of the function occurred. The fever which preceded the second attack of paralysis was probably brought on by sleeping with the windows raised. Whatever may have been the cause, it was during the excitement of the hot stage, that rupture of blood vessels again took place, in the right optic thalamus, and pons varolii, producing general palsy. The energies of the system were, however, again roused, and absorption and cicatrization were a second time effected; but the recovery was now much less complete; and the vital functions were so imperfectly performed, that he at length succumbed.

The seats of all the injuries were in the course of the motor tracts, and hence motion alone was impaired. The cavity in the pons varolii occupied its anterior part, and consequently did not involve any of the fibres of sensation.

Apoplexy—Palsy. G. B., ætat. 40, of robust frame, has been an inmate of the house for the last ten or twelve years. About the time of his admission had an attack of apoplexy, which was succeeded by paralysis of the right side. He recovered so far as to be able to walk about with the assistance of a cane, and to perform various menial duties. His general health was good. On January 21st, 1839, while engaged at his ordinary work, he staggered and fell, and was brought into the hospital in the following condition. There were violent convulsions of the whole of the right side, with complete paralysis of the left side. The mouth and head were, with intervals of a few seconds, drawn spasmodically to the right side. His consciousness was perfect; but his articulation embarrassed. He complained of pain of the head. Pupils were not affected. Pulse slower than natural, and labouring. He vomited a full meal, which he had taken a short time previous to the attack.

About forty ounces of blood were taken from his arm; during the flow of which, he had an evacuation from the bowels, consisting principally of undigested beets, which he had eaten the day before. Three drops of croton oil, and a purgative enema were administered, which operated freely; and a blister was applied to the back of the neck, which also acted well. No improvement, however, followed these remedies; the symptoms became worse; and he died forty-eight hours after he was attacked.

Autopsy, twenty-eight hours after death. Brain alone examined. On removing the cranium, the sinuses of the dura mater were discovered to be very much gorged with black blood. The inner surface of the cranium, particularly along the course of the superior longitudinal sinus, was covered with drops of this fluid. The glandulæ pacchioniæ were in great number,

and largely developed. The pia mater was very much congested. There was some effusion of dark coloured blood on the summit and outer face of the left hemisphere of the cerebellum; and a small quantity along the inferior and posterior edge of the adjacent lobe of the cerebrum; all of which had apparently escaped from the fourth ventricle. When the brain was sliced, and the drops of blood which oozed from the vessels scraped off with the back of the scalpel, the open mouths of the vessel were very distinct. Both of the lateral ventricles were distended by clotted blood; more fluid, however, in the left than in the right. The right ventricle contained a clot as large as a guinea fowl's egg; and also masses of pulpy brain, coloured and broken up by an admixture with the blood. The posterior third of the corpus striatum, and the whole of the optic thalamus of this side, were completely disorganized by an effusion of blood which appeared to have taken place from the latter. The walls of the cavity formed by the hæmorrhage were red and softened, to the depth of two or three lines. Where the brain was yet firm around the cavity, in its immediate vicinity, there were numerous black spots, as large as pins' heads, caused by extravasated blood. No vessels were visible. The greater part of the blood in the left lateral ventricle was fluid. The septum lucidum was ruptured in two places; near its anterior part, and at its middle; and a free communication was thus formed between the two ventricles. At the anterior part of the optic thalamus of the left side, just at its junction with the corpus striatum, there was a cavity about six lines in length, and from two to three lines deep, evidently the consequence of the former effusion of blood. It was lined by a firm, rugose membrane of cellular tissue, of a pink colour. There was an aperture by which it communicated with the ventricle. The substance of the brain around this cavity was much darker, and a little softer than the rest of the cerebral mass. The choroid plexus contained a large number of hydatids, some as large as a pea. That part of the optic thalamus of the right side, which forms the lateral wall of the third ventricle, was lacerated, presenting a circular opening of four lines in diameter, its edges ragged and soft, and the cavity filled with coagulated blood. The third and fourth ventricles were both distended by this fluid. The rest of the brain presented nothing remarkable.

Remarks. In this, as in the former case, there were traces of an old effusion of blood, which satisfactorily explained the first apoplectic attack. The time which intervened between this and the fatal seizure, was unusually long. Serres and Foville assert, that lesions of the corpus striatum and anterior parts of the brain are followed by paralysis of the lower extremities of the opposite side, and that lesions of the optic thalamus, or posterior parts of the cerebrum, cause paralysis of the upper extremities. The optic thalami, in both the foregoing cases, were the principal seats of injury, and the lower extremities were as much, or more affected than the upper. There was also, it is true, in the former case, effusion into the pons varolii, which renders it somewhat ambiguous, as we cannot know the precise time at which it occurred. There is, however, a strong probability that it did not take place until the second attack, when general palsy made its appearance. We can scarcely imagine it possible for effusion of blood to be made into the middle of the anterior part of the pons varolii, where the motory

fibres are concentrated into a narrow space, without general palsy being the consequence. Supposing then, that the effusion into the pons varolii occurred at the second seizure, we have the lesion of the left optic thalamus to explain the original palsy of the right side. The lower extremity was as much affected at this time, as the upper, which is in opposition to the views of Serres and Foville.

In the latter case, we have the lesion of the left optic thalamus, to account for the hemiplegia of the right side. Both leg and arm were here involved. But it may be said, that it was the anterior part of the thalamus, adjacent to the corpus striatum, which was the seat of the injury. It is impossible to tell how far the corpus striatum may have been disturbed by the pressure of the extravasated fluid, when first poured out; neither can we say with certainty, to what extent the functional action of this part remained imperfect, in consequence of the derangement of structures around the cavity, which resulted from the primary lesion. Additional facts would seem to be required to establish the supposed connection between the anterior parts of the cerebrum and the lower extremities; and the posterior portions and the upper extremities.

Syphilis—Phagedenic Ulceration—Aneurism of left internal Iliac Artery.

R. C. ætat, 32, was admitted into the female syphilitic ward, September 25th 1838. On the inner side of both nymphæ there is an extensive ulceration, passing a short distance into the vagina. This ulcer has a dark, foul, unhealthy appearance. Her general health is considerably impaired, and she is much emaciated. Pulse frequent, small and feeble. Emollient fomentations were applied to the sores, and infusion of colombo, gentian, and chamomile flowers, was ordered. The ulceration, however, proceeded until both nymphæ were destroyed, as also the meatus urinarius, and the soft parts up to the clitoris. It likewise extended fully an inch into the vagina, burrowing behind the rami of the pubes and eschia on both sides, forming an immense cavity. She was now put upon extract of cicuta, of which she took five grains three times a day; and by keeping the parts clean, by frequently injecting tepid water, the ulcerative process was arrested, and healthy granulations sprung up, with every appearance of speedy cicatrization. At this time she was attacked with hæmorrhage from the left side of the ulcer, behind the rami of the pubes and ischium; at first in small quantity but recurring at intervals of a few days, and requiring the use of pressure by passing a piece of sponge into the cavity, formed by the ulcer. In this way the bleeding was easily restrained. The ulcer on the right side cicatrized, while that on the left was kept open by the occasional occurrence of the hæmorrhage. She continued in this state for four or five weeks, gradually becoming weaker, and died the 23d of November.

Autopsy. Emaciation great. Both of the nymphæ are entirely destroyed. On the left side, opposite the os externum, there is a superficial ulcer, one inch wide, and extending from the posterior commissure to the mons veneris; about the centre of which, on the inner side of the rami of the pubes and ischium, there is a fistulous opening, three lines in diameter.

On opening the abdomen, a considerable quantity of coagulated blood was found in different regions of this cavity, in the hypogastric right and left

iliac, and right hypochondriac—forming, in the latter situation, a layer of four or five lines in thickness, between the convex surface of the liver, and the walls of the abdomen. The uterus is a little hypertrophied, and is pushed from its natural position, far over to the right side, by a tumour formed in its left lateral ligament, through which the effusion into the sac of the peritoneum had taken place. The tumour when opened was found to contain a mass of clotted blood, in the centre of which, there was a portion of dense, laciniated fibrine, about the size of a hen's egg. It contained a cavity an inch in diameter, which communicated above with the internal iliac artery, the coats of which, as high as the ilio-lumbar artery, were thickened, and easily lacerated. There was a sinus passing from the aneurismal tumour to the vagina; and opening on the surface of the ulcer, inside of the pubes and ischium. Most of the branches of the internal iliac were destroyed at their origin. The sciatica nerve was surrounded by indurated cellular membrane, where it passes over the short rotations of the thigh; and its roots were enveloped by coagulated blood.

Remarks. Phagedenic ulceration is one of the most dangerous and unmanageable forms of syphilitic disease. It is almost always rendered more inveterate, and more rapid in its progress, by mercury. The antiphlogistic treatment, with anodynes, to allay irritability, is unquestionably best adapted to arrest the progress of this destructive ulceration. Mr. Carmichael, in his "*Essay on Venereal Diseases*," has given us the best treatise on this subject. Absolute rest in the recumbent position; venesection in proportion to the extent of the pain, inflammation, and symptomatic fever; antimonials in sufficient doses to nauseate; warm poultices of bread and water; warm fomentations, either in the form of stupe, or injected between the prepuce and glans; opium, hyoscyamus, and cicuta, in sufficient doses, to lessen pain and irritation, and procure rest at night, are the means he relies upon during the inflammatory and active stage. Afterwards when it excites but little uneasiness, and creeps slowly along, healing in one place while ulcerating in another, the solution of nitrate of silver, in the proportion of one, two, or three grains to an ounce of distilled water, he tells us, may be of service; or the mercurial black, or yellow washes agree well in some cases, while in others, it must be admitted, that no application seems to check the progress of the ulcer.

Stimulating applications, he farther says, are often extremely useful to sloughing venereal ulcers, such as Venice turpentine, or balsam copaiva, blended with one or two parts of olive oil, or a lotion composed of one part of tincture of myrrh, to seven of camphorated mixture. They correct the fœtor of the sloughs, and stimulate the sound parts to cast them off; but unfortunately, he admits that they have not the power of preventing their renewal.

I have never seen permanent benefit derived from stimulating applications. In one case, where the greater part of the glans penis was destroyed, they had a fall and fair trial, after fomentations and poultices; and it was not until they were all discontinued, and the sore dressed with dry lint twice a day,

and washed clean with warm water, before each dressing, that healthful granulations sprung up, and cicatrization commenced. It then speedily healed.

In the case of R. C. narrated above, the debility was so great, that tonics appeared to be indicated. Her general health improved under the use of the bitter infusion, but the ulcerative process was not suspended. The cicuta, which I have employed in other cases, was manifestly of great service. I regard it as the best anodyne in these cases. The dose may be increased to ten grains of the extract three times a day, if a smaller quantity does not answer the purpose.

If the aneurismal tumour had not been present, this woman, in all probability, would have recovered. No pulsation was detected, and she made no complaint which could have led to the discovery of the aneurism. There was a dull and aching pain about the hip and down the leg, which was supposed to be rheumatic. But even if it had been known that there was aneurism, in her debilitated state it would have been worse than folly to have attempted to cure it by operation.

Pleuro-Pneumonia.—T. P., ætat. 42, admitted February 11th, 1839. Ten days ago, after exposure in a damp cellar, he was suddenly seized with severe pain of his left side, which was speedily followed by a chill, and high febrile excitement, accompanied by dyspnoea. A young physician was called in who told him he had a bad cold, and that he had seen cases terminate in pleurisy. He prescribed some powders which induced excessive catharsis. He afterwards applied a blister to the side, and then a pitch plaster. When he entered the hospital, his expression of countenance manifested great anxiety and prostration. His respiration was very much embarrassed. There was complete dulness of the left side of the chest, both in front and behind; also bronchial respiration and bronchophony, and tracheal rattle. Pulse 120, small and feeble; discharges from the bowels involuntary. A blister was applied to the chest. He died at three o'clock in the morning of the 12th of February.

Autopsy. Thorax. The whole surface of the left lung adhered firmly to the pleura costalis, and thick flakes of recently effused lymph were spread over the lower and middle portions of it. About eight ounces of serum were found in the cavity after the removal of the lung. The pleura lining the ribs and covering the diaphragm, was intensely red; and numberless minute capillary vessels carrying red blood, anastomosed freely with each other, in the sub-serous cellular tissue, and presented injected patches of various forms. The pleura pulmonalis exhibited a similar appearance. The whole of this lung, with the exception of a small portion of the anterior part, which lay next to the sternum above the base of the heart, was in the second and third stages of the effects of inflammation. The upper half of the superior lobe was hepatized. It was solid, and inelastic to the touch; was not crepitous, and when cut into yielded no bubbles of air; but when pressed, a bloody fluid exuded sparingly from it. This portion was also filled with granulations, which were very perceptible on tearing the lung; and it was likewise mottled with black pulmonary matter. The whole of the lower lobe, and the remainder of the upper lobe were in a state of purulent infiltration. The reddish, mottled appearance of the hepatized portion, was exchanged

for a yellowish drab, or stone colour, approaching to sulphur-yellow. On cutting into it, no granulations could be seen; but a yellowish, opaque purulent matter, oozed from it. The slightest pressure with the fingers made a cavity, which immediately filled with pus. The texture was extremely soft and friable. The right lung was normal.

Abdomen. The mucous coat of the stomach was red and softened over nearly the whole surface. A few patches, at different places, were of the natural colour. The duodenum was slightly reddened. The jejunum, along its whole course, was intensely red, and the mucous coat was also softened. The redness and softening were continued into the ileum; but in a diminished degree. The upper part of the colon, in the vicinity of the caput cæcum, was of a light pinkish hue, but was only in a slight degree softened.

Remarks. We here have a strongly marked instance of the defects of our system of medical education. A young man of fair talents, who had passed through a full course of medical lectures, and obtained his degree, regarded the symptoms of the above case, as indicative simply of a "bad cold;" by which it may be presumed, if he attached any precise meaning to the terms, he intended to call it a case of acute bronchitis. Acute bronchitis, however, does not terminate in pleurisy. That form of it, in which the pulmonary vesicles, and smaller bronchial tubes, are the seats of the inflammation, passes readily into pneumonia; but does not become a pleurisy. Whatever opinion may have been entertained of the pathology of the case, it is manifest from the treatment, that it was regarded as one of no great severity. No blood was abstracted; but purgatives were exhibited to the extent of producing hyper-catharsis; and after death we find a most intense jejunitis; which doubtless had been caused by the drastic cathartics. The blister not having been preceded by blood-letting, must certainly have increased the febrile excitement; and the burgundy pitch plaster, in a case of acute inflammation of the chest, was, to say the least, a strange remedy.

Now it must not be supposed that I think the blame should attach solely to the practitioner in this case. I consider the chief defect to be in the system of education, under which he obtained his degree of Doctor of Medicine. It is impossible for any man, however great his talents, to become so familiar with the diversified forms of disease, as not to be perpetually making mistakes, by merely reading in an office, and attending two or three courses of lectures, of four months' duration. Until the course of study is lengthened, and more diligent and careful attendance upon hospital practice, and to morbid anatomy and pathology are required, similar blunders will be incessantly recurring. In private practice, the opportunities for making post mortem examinations are so few, that students seldom behold, in a single instance, the ravages of morbid action; and what is worse, physicians themselves cannot discover, and consequently do not profit, by the mistakes of which they are guilty.

The remedy consists in prolonging the course of study; insisting upon longer attendance upon clinical instruction; and to have a professor of

pathology, and pathological anatomy; whose course of lectures and demonstrations shall be considered of greater importance to the mere physician, than all the others combined.

Dysphagia.—W. C——, *ætat.* 50, habits intemperate, but his health, previous to his present disease attacking him, was good. Admitted, December 5th, 1838. Six months ago, without any premonition, experienced some difficulty in swallowing his dinner. There was no pain, nor uneasiness; but the dysphagia gradually increased, and finally compelled him to seek admission into the Alms-House. He is very much emaciated and anemic. His appetite has always been good. He swallows fluids better than he does solids. He takes eight or ten tablespoonfuls of soup, with bread soaked in it, in rapid succession, when inverted action of the œsophagus takes place, and more than half is returned. Has no pain nor soreness when he attempts to swallow. There is slight uneasiness and a sense of obstruction at the top of the sternum; which probably arises from the distension of the œsophagus by the soup. Pulse regular, but small and weak; bowels in good order; respiration easy; voice reduced to a hoarse whisper; fauces inflamed. A probang introduced into the œsophagus, passed to within four or five inches of the stomach, when it was firmly resisted. Capsicum gargle was ordered for the throat. Ivory probangs of medium size were passed through the stricture into the stomach, with the effect of entirely removing the dysphagia. For a short time he improved rapidly in appearance, and became considerably fatter. From one to two weeks were suffered to elapse before the operation was repeated, in order to prevent dangerous irritation. The last time the instrument was introduced, a small quantity of pus and blood was brought up. The dysphagia was not very troublesome after this; but in a few weeks he again began to decline. The inflammation of fauces extended to his tongue; his voice became more whispering, and he died April 10th, 1839.

Autopsy. About eight inches of the lower part of the œsophagus was one ragged ulcer. The mucous membrane was entirely destroyed; and also the greater part of the muscular coat. The ulceration extended an inch into the stomach beyond the cardiac orifice, and terminated abruptly by raised edges. Three small masses of hard, cheesy matter were found around the edges of the ulcer, where it terminated in the stomach. Along the smaller curvature, the stomach was red and softened. The œsophagus, in the neighbourhood of the cardiac orifice, and likewise the stomach, adhered to the liver by effusion of lymph. Where the liver lies over the œsophagus, there was an hepatic abscess, containing six ounces of black, thick, soft matter. This abscess did not appear to have opened either into the œsophagus or stomach. The pharynx was red, and the mucous coat thickened. The velum pendulum palati was greatly thickened and indurated. The posterior part of the tongue, on its upper surface, had its covering greatly thickened and indurated; and the papulæ were very much enlarged. The half of the lingual surface of the epiglottis, next its base, was thickened and indurated; the mucous coat having numerous rounded prominences on it. The larynx was free from disease. The lungs were large and contained a few tubercles—probably not more than half a dozen. The bronchial mucous membrane was somewhat reddened; and the tubes contained a quantity of frothy mucus.

Remarks. This, I suppose, is an example of what would be called scirrhus and cancer of the œsophagus. There was not as much induration of the tissues, as we usually find where scirrhus degeneration exists; but this may have been owing to the extent to which the ulceration had proceeded; by which process, softening had taken place. If the scrofulous diathesis had been strongly marked, by the deposition of tuberculous matter in the lungs and other parts, I should be disposed to call it a case of scrofulous ulceration. But as this was not the fact, and as the lumps taken out of the margins of the ulcer, in the vicinity of the cardiac orifice of the stomach, were harder than tuberculous matter ordinarily is, it may safely be called carcinoma.

If the patient had lived long enough, the hepatic abscess would certainly have burst either into the stomach or œsophagus.

We here also have an instance of remarkable change of the voice without disease of the larynx. The thickening of the velum pendulum palati, and epiglottis, and the inflammation of the fauces, appear to have been sufficient to reduce the voice to a hoarse whisper, precisely similar to the state in which I have repeatedly observed it, when the vocal chords have been found tumefied and indurated, on examination after death.

Baltimore, May 1st, 1839.

ARTICLE VII.—*Successful Operation for the purpose of remedying a Deformity of the Leg; consequent to a badly set Fracture.* By CHARLES PARRY, M. D., of Indianapolis, Ind.

THE patient, upon whom this operation was performed, was a young man near the age of 22; a member of the bar, of fine talents, and considerable attainments.

The history of the case is as follows:—At the age of fifteen, while skating on the ice, he fell and broke his right leg; the tibia about midway, the fibula two inches lower down. The physician who was called to attend the case, was considered skilful, but of intemperate habits, and, most unfortunately for the patient, was intoxicated at this time.

In what manner he dressed the fractured limb, it is impossible to say; but in the course of three or four weeks, it was found quite firmly united: the bones forming an angle almost equal to a right angle, at the place of fracture. The patient had to walk with a crutch, the toes of the lame limb not touching the ground when he was in the erect position. When he sat on a chair, and placed both feet on the floor, the knee of the sound limb was five inches higher than the knee of the lame one.

After suffering in this situation near two years, the patient determined

to consult some of the most eminent physicians through the country, in order if possible to have his situation alleviated. But they generally advised him to have nothing done; which advice he followed with all fortitude, for two or three years more; during which time he suffered such great inconvenience, that he finally concluded to make another effort, and determined to endure almost any pain, or submit to any plan of treatment that offered a feasible prospect of relieving him.

For this purpose, he went to Cincinnati, and consulted several physicians of that place; the most of whom again advised him to have nothing done, as they did not see much prospect of his obtaining relief. One or two, however, proposed to endeavour to break the limb over again, with the view of setting it straight. The patient being a person of strong mind and quick apprehension, was not satisfied of the practicability of this project; and as it was merely proposed and not urged with any warmth by the physicians themselves, it was not adopted.

The patient returned home; pursued the study of the law; was admitted to the bar; and commenced a lucrative practice. But still dissatisfied in his mind, (as he has frequently told me,) believing that something might yet be done to relieve his situation, and determined to submit to the first proposition that offered a probable chance of the desired result.

In this state of mind, I met with him in the summer of 1837; became intimate with him, when he gave me the history above related; and asked my opinion of his case.

After some deliberation, I stated that I thought he could be very materially benefitted by the following operation.

To cut down to the bones; dissect the muscles from them, and saw a little block out of the angle of each bone; bring the lower end of the limb in a line with the upper; retain them in juxtaposition by splints; and treat as a compound fracture.

As it was only necessary to convince the patient of its practicability, to have the plan adopted; he told me at once, I should operate, as soon as he could make arrangements for his necessary confinement.

My reasoning on the subject was thus: after the operation the case would be similar to a compound fracture, with probably less violence to the soft parts; that compound fractures, now a days, were generally successfully cured, without a resort to amputation as formerly. I also, had in my mind the operation of Dr. J. Rhea Barton of Philadelphia, on the hip joint. I concluded the violence to the general system in this case would not be greater than in his; that if he could succeed in establishing an artificial joint, I certainly might succeed in forming a natural union; and let the worse come, the patient could not be a loser, for I could yet amputate, and the patient had repeatedly told me, he would rather have his leg cut off, than remain as he was.

On the 15th of January, 1838, assisted by Drs. Mason and Ford, others

present, I proceeded to the operation already described. I had prepared myself with a small saw, from the plate and description of Dr. Barton's in his hip joint case, without which I would have found great difficulty in sawing the fibula; from its being so closely and firmly fixed against the outward flat surface of the tibia, and covered by the tibialis anticus muscle. Further, without this small saw, it would have been difficult to avoid wounding the anterior tibial artery; for, while severing the fibula, I had to introduce the end of a finger between the artery and bone; and permit the saw to strike against my finger.

In sawing the fibula, I had made my calculations for the two sections to meet at the posterior part of the bone; but after the block of bone was taken out, I found the leg would not yield to moderate force. I then took off another section from the lower end, the appearance of which indicated that, at the original fracture, a very thick spicula of bone had extended across the angle, acting as a brace; the triangular space being filled up by osseous deposition. After this was overcome, the limb was brought straight without further difficulty.

By this operation, the leg was increased three inches in length.

January 16th. During the forepart of the night the patient rested badly; complained of much pain; on taking a large anodyne, about one o'clock, rested much better till morning. The leg was kept in its proper position very snugly. This morning, 16th, seemed quite smart; pain trifling. About eleven o'clock change for the worse; such as increased pain in the wound, with sensations of smothering; burning at the heart; followed by a slight chill and subsequent fever; gave a mild cathartic of blue mass. and rhei. Rested tolerably during the afternoon. Medicine operated at nine in the evening; took a portion of salts; operated at one; after which, slept well until morning.

17th. Quite smart this morning; relished his breakfast; no pain except on moving the limb; during this afternoon and evening, suffers much from "starts and jerks," as he calls them, in his sleep, otherwise there is but little pain while the limb is still; says he is afraid to go to sleep for fear of its jumping so, which sometimes causes him to scream out with pain; during the night suffered excessively from starts; gave large anodynes, did not allay them, however; gently rubbing the thigh, with my hand, was the only thing that allayed them; and while that was continued, he slept easy and free from starts; a passage at nine & o'clock.

18th. No material change; suffers a great deal of pain; removed a portion of the dressings, which afforded some relief; got up and sat in a chair, while the bed was made; slept during the night better than usual.

19th. Still improving; leg not so painful; some swelled; pus; looks very healthy.

23d. The leg has been gradually improving until this morning, when from some unaccountable cause, the system became too much relaxed and

weakened; the wound has a bad appearance, and gaping; granulations of a leaden colour. Gave quinine freely, generous diet, and stimulating applications to the wound, &c.

25th, 26th, 27th. Improving finely.

28th. During the morning felt better than he has been at all; but in the afternoon met with a very serious accident; felt very smart; had a number of his acquaintances in the room, paying him a visit; was sitting up in bed, scratching his leg, as it itched considerably, when upon reaching too far to scratch his foot, and suddenly throwing the weight of his body forward, he broke up the new adhesions of the bones, and deranged their position; this caused him so much pain that he nearly fainted. Some hemorrhage proceeded from the wound; I found it impracticable to adjust the bones at this time, from the excessive pain the least motion produced.

29th. Very restless last night; appears to labour under extreme morbid sensibility. Says the snapping of a penknife, or the jar of a glass tumbler, shocks his whole body; during the night troubled in an unusual degree, with starts and jerking, this morning leg very much swollen. Large anodyne; poultice to the wound.

30th. Swelling of the leg increased; pain excessive; seems very drowsy, probably owing to the large portions of anodyne he necessarily took last night. Cathartic, poultices continued.

31st. Seems every way better; swelling reduced; with the assistance of Drs. Masop and Ford, I reset the leg.

February, 1st, 2d. Tumefaction running high again.

3d, 4th. Jerking excessive; tried enormous doses of anodyne equivalent to xij. grs. of opium at a time; repeated frequently; this not able to suppress it, nothing but the rubbing of the lame thigh does any good.

15th. Patient gradually and slowly improving; sets up most of the day in an arm chair; gets about the room with the aid of a crutch.

27th. Patient improving finely; went out of doors and walked up town with one crutch; is able to bear considerable weight on the lame foot.

March. Towards the last of the month, patient started on a trip to Wisconsin Territory to examine the country; went by water.

Remarks. I am fully satisfied that, in this case, mine was the only practicable operation that could have been performed. Had the limb been put in the pullies, as proposed by the Cincinnati physicians, I am confident the leg would not have broken at the desired place, from the great thickness of osseous matter there; but probably, if they persisted, would have broken, two inches or so, either above or below, which would have made the leg even worse than before. However much I had to regret the accident that befel the patient in the displacement of the bone, I have nothing to reflect upon myself from neglect, or otherwise, as it was entirely the patient's fault, his own accident; I deeply regretted it, because it gave him so much additional pain, and put him back three or four weeks, when he was doing

well, and had passed the worse period of confinement; and we were unable to fix the leg as straight as before the accident. I consider there was no position more favourable for the displacement of the bone, than the one he was then in, sitting up in the bed laughing with his associates, the heel resting on a firm foundation, and the only support under the wound was a bunch of cotton, as we had just taken the most of the dressings off, for the purpose of gently scratching the limb, which itched intolerably. In this position, suddenly throwing the body forward, putting into a state of tension the muscles inserted into the tibia and fibula, at the same time sending an impetus or force along the femur; from it continued to the bones of the leg; the heel could not sink, but the bones did at the wound.

I was highly gratified by meeting with the report of Dr. J. Rhea Barton's ankylosed knee case, in the February number of the American Journal of Medical Sciences; where the principles in surgery that are involved, and their applications to the benefit of his patient, is exactly the same as in mine, modified only in situation. At the time that I operated, I had never heard of his operation, although it had been performed more than two years previous, but not published until the February following.

Indianapolis, Ind., March 30th, 1839.

[NOTE.—The preceding case is an interesting one, and the expedient resorted to for the relief of the patient, is highly creditable to the ingenuity of the surgeon. The plan of treatment, as observed by Dr. Parry, is identical with that previously adopted by Dr. J. R. Barton, for the relief of a patient suffering from an ankylosed knee. It is probably not generally known, that operations of a similar character have been also performed in Europe: the following notice of three of them, all that we know of having been recorded, may be therefore considered as an interesting complement to this paper.

- M. Clemot, surgeon in chief of the marine at Rochefort, has, in two instances, made resections of portions of the femur, in order to remove great deformities resulting from fractures badly treated. The first case was in a child in whom the treatment by extension, though persisted in for several months, had failed. The operation was performed in December, 1834. A longitudinal incision, two inches in length was made over the callus, and the bony angle fairly exposed. The fragments had united at an angle of about 112 degrees. Spatulas were placed beneath the bone in opposite directions in order to protect the soft parts, and the angular projection protruded. With a small saw, a section perpendicular to the axis of the superior fragment was made, including but two thirds of its thickness. A like section was then made for the inferior fragment. The loss of substance was not great, and was at the expense of the callus. The limb was then placed in a good position, and the fragments maintained in apposition. Seventy days after the operation the child was removed to Bordeaux, having the limb straightened and lengthened.

The second case, was that of a husbandman, ætat. 27, who, fourteen months and a half previous to the operation, had met with a fracture of the left thigh a little above its middle. After the cure, the femur remained deformed, and bent to an angle of 130 degrees—the summit of this appearing at the external and anterior part. The limb was shortened five inches, the leg and the foot carried inwards, and the patient unable

to walk. The callus was perfectly firm. Resection of the angular projection was made in February, 1835, and the limb afterwards placed on the double inclined plane. Seventy days after the operation, the inclined plane was removed, the leg and thigh being still kept in a state of semi-flexion, but slight motion allowed. The date of his discharge is not mentioned, though it is stated that he was able to support the weight of his body on the limb, and had a lameness scarcely perceptible.

The above cases are extracted from a memoir by M. Clemot, entitled, "*Sur la resection du fémur pour un cal vicieux*," presented to the Academie de Médecine of Paris, 24th of May, 1836.

M. Wasserfuhr of Stettin has also performed a nearly similar operation on a child *ætat* 5, to remedy an angular deformity of the femur above its middle part, following a badly treated fracture. In his case, the fractured bone was consolidated in such a manner as to form nearly a right angle, and the limb was shortened to the extent of *twelve fingers breadth*. The operation was difficult, and followed by severe symptoms, but the patient recovered.*

Since the preceding was written, we have received the No. of Guy's Hospital Reports for April, 1839, and find in it an account of a similar operation recently performed by CHARLES ASTON KEY, Esq. for the cure of deformity of the tibia, occasioned by a gun-shot wound.

The subject of this case, Captain Charlton, had the tibia of his right leg fractured by a musket ball, on the 17th of August, 1835, in Assam, East Indies. "It appeared, from the history of the accident and subsequent treatment, that a considerable portion of bone having been lost on the inner side of the tibia, the broken ends had united at an angle, in the same manner and from the same cause as an ulcerated spine acquires an irregular form from loss of substance on the anterior part of the vertebræ. The upper part of the tibia had not only formed an angle at its point of union with the lower portion of the bone, but also deviated from its natural line in relation to the femur. Its head, with the articulatory surface, had been somewhat forced outwards, so that an appearance of obliquity was given to it when viewed from before. In addition to the great deformity of the tibia, the fibula had undergone a displacement at its upper extremity. Its head had been forced away from its articulation with the tibia, and formed an unnatural prominence, above the usual position in reference to the tibia. The bearing of this bone was also altered. Not having been broken at the time of the accident, it could not yield and form an angle, as the tibia had at the seat of fracture; but maintaining its natural straight line, it had been compelled to alter its line of bearing, in compliance with the angular form of the larger bone. The fibula, therefore, preserved a line parallel to the lower portion of the tibia. Its lower end, being forcibly acted on by the inward inclination of the foot and lower part of the tibia, had carried the upper part outward; and had caused a dislocation of its head, which had undergone some change of form, and possessed a degree of motion not natural to it in its ordinary position. The shortening of the whole limb occasioned by this alteration in form, was such as to cause Captain Charlton to walk on his toes; the heel being raised an inch and a half when he stood upright. The soft parts had a healthy aspect; and the cicatrix over the bone had not contracted a firmer union to the periosteum than is usual with wounds situated directly over bone."

The limb was useless; the patient was obliged to carry it at some distance from its fellow in the act of progression. Sir Astley Cooper and Mr. Key were consulted as to

* We are indebted for the above abstract of these three cases to our colleague Dr. G. W. Norris.

the possibility of restoring the natural line of the bones of the leg; and the former suggested as the only means of restoration, that the bones of the leg should be divided—doubting whether the division of the tibia alone would be sufficient to set the fibula at liberty;—but that the tibia should be first divided; and if necessary, the operation should be performed on the fibula. As the muscles were not apparently in fault, this course promised the patient relief. They seemed to have acted only from the tibia having lost its support on its inner side, and consequently to have drawn the foot and the lower half of the leg inwards. Their fibres did not appear to have undergone any permanent shortening.

The operation was performed by Mr. Key, on the 14th of October, 1838. "The tibia was laid bare on its anterior surface, by a longitudinal incision nearly four inches long, which traversed the line of the old wound, and allowed the integuments to be detached on each side; so that the anterior spine and the attachment of the soleus were exposed, just above the site of the old fracture. A strong steel grooved director, slightly curved, such as I use in operating for hernia, but narrow, was then passed along the outer surface of the tibia, detaching the tibialis anticus, until it reached the unyielding interosseous ligament. By a little firmer pressure, the director pierced it close to the bone. With another similar director, and by the same process, the inner and back surface of the tibia was so far detached from its muscles, that the ends of the two directors met behind the bone.

"A curved needle, on which was hooked a chain-saw, was then passed along the groove of the outer director, and from thence to the groove of the inner; and its point being brought to view by a pair of dressing-forceps, the saw was adjusted so as to cut the bone from behind. When the tibia was about half sawn through, the saw—as chain-saws too often do, even when lightly used—locked, and became useless: the section of the bone was therefore completed from before, by a small common saw.

"As soon as the tibia was divided, Sir Astley Cooper, taking the foot in his hand, found the lower part of the leg quite free to move in any direction, and that it was unnecessary to divide the fibula. As soon as the tibia was brought into a straight line, the head of the fibula was restored in some measure to its natural position, and ceased to project in the unseemly manner it had done before the operation. The part where the tibia was divided, gaped, as soon as the bones were straightened; and the point of contact between the sawn ends of the tibia was but a small portion of its outer circumference. The muscles had, from length of time, acquired so fixed a state, that some force was required to overcome their resistance: for as soon as the hind was removed from the foot, they immediately carried it inwards, to its former position.

"The limb was allowed to rest on pillows, without much restraint; it being thought advisable to allow the wound to pass into a healthy state of granulation, before any attempt was made to confine the bones with splints. At the end of about ten days the wound had quietly gone through its several stages, and had healed, with the exception of about an inch in the centre: this part continued more or less open for some weeks; discharging a healthy pus, and giving exit to a few minute portions of exfoliating bone. The inflammation that succeeded the operation, was less than might have been expected; and the constitutional disturbance was inconsiderable, owing, probably, to the natural temperament of the patient, and his long previous preparation. The suppuration seemed to be confined to the periosteum and ends of the bone; the surrounding soft parts remaining almost free from pain and tumefaction.

"The object to which it was necessary to pay close attention, during the progress of cicatrization, was to counteract the resistance of the muscles, and to prevent contraction at the cicatrix when union had taken place.

"The limb, throughout the whole treatment, was kept upon the heel, with the knee straight. At first, two long lateral splints, well padded, were applied, so as to embrace

the foot on each side: to these were added, afterwards, an under splint, to give more effective support and steadiness to the limb. The constant tendency to displacement, was not effectually prevented by common tapes and bandages: as these became slack, the leg assumed its former distorted position; and thus motion was given to the broken ends of the bone, in adjusting the line of the limb. To avoid this, which was not practicable by means of straps or bandages, a tourniquet was applied at either end of the splint. The length of lever enabled the upper tourniquet to act with great power on the foot, and to keep it in a straight line with the thigh. The lower one was kept firmly screwed to the heel of the two splints; thus keeping the foot firmly secured, and giving steadiness to the action of the upper tourniquet. This plan of keeping the tapes of the tourniquets tight prevented motion or displacement in the ends of the bones. It was at one time contemplated to substitute the white-of-egg bandage, in place of the splints; but the attempt was unsatisfactory, as displacement of the limb gradually took place; and we were compelled again to have recourse to the method which had answered our purpose so well, with the addition of a long outside pad on the fibula.

"The process of union and of consolidation, was necessarily tedious, from the limited points of contact between the sawn ends of the bone and the space which had to be filled up on its inner part. It was not till the beginning of January, that union could be said to have taken place; as before that time, the limb would slightly yield, when released from the splints. On the 18th of January, the wound having been some time closed, and the bone seeming to be firmly united, Sir Astley Cooper, in the presence of Mr. Atkins and Mr. Balderson, who had unremittingly watched the progress of the case, made a careful examination of the leg, and pronounced it to be united and firm. The fibula, though deviating but little from its usual appearance, had not become quite firm in its new position; the ligaments remaining weak, and unable to sustain it without allowing some slight lateral motion. It was deemed advisable, while the external callus was forming and acquiring firmness, to continue the splints with common bandages and fillets. This precaution was also rendered necessary, by the possibility of the newly-formed cartilage contracting before bone had been deposited in sufficient quantity to give it solidity. The length of the limb appeared little less than its fellow, when they were laid together parallel to one another."

On the 10th of March, 1839, the date of the last report, the leg continued in good position; but the cicatrisation of the wound had been retarded, by the coming away of several small portions of bone; in other respects, the patient was doing well.—*ED.*

ARTICLE VIII. *Notice of the Scarlet Fever as it occurred in the Valley of Virginia and in the counties of Loudon and Fauquier in the year 1832; and of the Treatment which proved the most successful.* By H. D. MAGILL, M. D., of Virginia.

In the year 1832, the scarlet fever made its appearance in the northern counties of the Valley of Virginia; and extended its ravages across the Blue Ridge mountains, into the contiguous counties of Loudon and Fauquier. It was attended with dreadful fatality.

The depleting plan of treatment was at first universally adopted in the Valley. In some instances, during this mode of treatment, the patient sunk

under the first bleeding, and either died immediately or languished for a few days in a state of hopeless debility. In other cases the free operation of cathartics given to reduce inflammatory action seemed to exert a highly deleterious influence by prostrating the afflicted. In many instances when depletion was used under the most favourable circumstances, gangrene, and sloughing, ensued in and around the orifice made by the lancet; and it was not an uncommon occurrence for blisters to mortify.

But it might be asked; what was the condition of the patient subjected to this plan of treatment? was depletion contra-indicated by the symptoms? Not at all; the symptoms seemed imperiously to call for such a course. The pulse exhibited a high grade of arterial action, the brain appeared to be frequently in a state of congestion; generally there was considerable delirium and occasionally much oppression about the pulmonary regions. Bloodletting and free purging appeared to be absolutely necessary in order to reduce the excitement to a proper standard; in some cases it seemed to be required, to prevent disorganization of the brain or the lungs, threatened by violent excitement or over-powering congestion.

The writer, residing and practising his profession in one of the Valley counties at the time, was an eye witness to the above facts. Soon after the appearance of scarlatina in the Valley, it broke out in the country east of the Blue Ridge mountains; and showed itself extensively in the counties of Loudon and Fauquier. The same system of practice was adopted that was pursued in the Valley of Virginia; with precisely the same results; for the mortality was frightful. There was one exception to this course;* one physician had sagacity enough to detect the erroneous views entertained of the disease, and firmness enough to differ from his professional brethren in the course he pursued; having adopted the old established doctrines with regard to the disease, upon which he practised with some modification, and with the most distinguished success. His loss did not exceed two per cent. He was frequently called to the aid of those who pursued the depleting plan, and generally by his simple mode of treatment, succeeded in snatching from the grave, patients who had previously been considered in a hopeless condition. Soon after the great epidemic of 1832, the writer removed from the Valley to the county of Loudon, where he has since pursued his profession. Influenced by the ill success of the depleting plan, he has since practised after the mode pursued by the above mentioned physician, with entire success; and can state the fact that whilst death has been common from scarlatina in the neighbouring counties, and several in this vicinity have died when a different mode of managing it was adopted, but one has occurred in the range of his observation, that was treated after this mode. It is proper that the writer should introduce, previous to entering upon the treatment of scarlatina, extracts from several letters, in answer to a call for information on the

* Dr. W. L. Powell of Leesburg Virginia.

subject, and the mode of treatment pursued; as they will confirm the statement made by him. Two will be sufficient. The one is taken from the letter of a gentleman who stood at the head of his profession in the Valley; the other is from a physician of extensive practice in the upper part of London and Fauquier counties. "With respect to the treatment (says the former) I believe I tried every plan recommended by the best writers, and am equally dissatisfied with them all. The emetic plan recommended by our old professor Rush failed to arrest the disease, and I think frequently increased the inflammation of the stomach and throat. The bleeding plan recommended by Armstrong proved equally objectionable; in the simpler form it was unnecessary, and in the malignant it prostrated the patient. The punctures frequently mortified. Cold affusions recommended by Dr. Currie, moderated the excitement, but failed to arrest the disease. Blisters should never be applied, they so frequently become gangrenous, that I feel astonished they should ever have been recommended."

The remarks of the latter physician, above alluded to, are as follows:

"The number of patients I have visited, since the 1st of April is 136; of this number I have lost 14;* five died within a few hours after *my first visit*, leaving nine with whom I had any possible chance. All the cases attended with cerebral inflammation *either in my own practice, or that of others as far as I can ascertain, died*. In my treatment, I have paid no regard to the name of the disease whatever, but have endeavoured to accommodate the remedies as nearly as I could to the different grades and symptoms which presented at each visit. The majority of the cases were of the anginous kind, and very violent. In these I constantly *bled until nausea or faintness* was induced. Next I generally gave an emetic and cathartic combined, and kept up a catharsis for a day or two, with pretty large doses of calomel; and during the intervals I gave broken doses of ant. tart.; sometimes muriate of ammonia in conjunction with calomel and tart. I used cold ablutions very freely, and often enough to keep down the temperature of the skin. In using the cold bath *I paid no regard to the eruption*; as this appears to have no control over the disease; and in very many cases does not make its appearance at all. I have frequently cupped and blistered behind the ears, on the back of the neck, and on the chest; but have done so with a trembling hand, as the latter are generally very hard to cure and once or twice became gangrenous. So much for our epidemic. I cannot boast of having given you any thing new or successful."

Treatment. If called in immediately after the attack, ipecacuanha should be administered so as to cause free vomiting. Should the first dose not have this effect, it ought to be repeated until it succeeds. The preparations of antimony are objectionable, inasmuch as they are calculated to increase the

* This letter was written in June, 1832; how many died afterwards can not be ascertained.

local irritation of the stomach, which in every severe case amounts almost to phlogosis. If there seems to be a necessity for keeping up a slight nausea, it should be done by small doses of ipecacuanha. Much mischief has been done by the use of tartar emetic in scarlatina.* The writer was lately called upon to see a case in which paralysis of the stomach existed, evidently caused by the presence of this article within an inflamed mucous membrane. After free emesis has been produced, every effort should be directed to the surface. By bathing the feet and legs, in warm water; and making applications of hot bricks; and bottles filled with hot water, to the extremities, and body, in conjunction with warm herb teas, such as an infusion of saffron, mentha pulegium, hoarhound, &c. diaphoresis will generally be induced; which can afterwards be easily maintained, by covering up the patient tolerably warm, and continuing the use of the sudorific teas above mentioned. It will frequently be found necessary, should the tongue be loaded and the discharge of a light complexion, to give a moderate quantity of calomel in the commencement; but this should not be repeated unless circumstances imperiously demand it; inasmuch as the continued use of mercury might produce an irritable state of the stomach and intestinal canal which would seriously interfere with the well-doing of the patient. The bowels should be kept gently open by the mildest and most soothing cathartics, such as the ol. ricini, of which a small dose may be given every twelve or twenty-four hours, according to circumstances. In most cases there will be an evident exacerbation, every evening, accompanied with more or less delirium. This can generally be relieved by gently increasing the cathartics, putting the first in warm water, and giving warm herb teas. If the stomach should be irritable† repeat the emetic as at first administered. In one instance where the lungs were considerably affected the writer prescribed an emetic every evening for several days with marked advantage. All the unpleasant symptoms give way, including the delirium, upon producing diaphoresis by these means. In cases where the disease obstinately resists every effort to effect diaphoresis, perseverance in the use of the foregoing remedies will generally produce it at last. To prevent inflammation of the throat and to relieve it if it should occur, the mouth, and pharynx should be gargled every three or four hours, with an infusion of cayenne pepper; and if the patient should swallow a portion of it, there will be no injury sustained. Should ulceration supervene, equal parts of the tinct. of Peruvian bark and myrrh should be used as a gargle. The swelling of the glands may be discussed by an application of hops steeped in hot vinegar, and thickened into the consistence of a poultice by bran or corn meal. The diet should be mildly nourishing and the drinks all warm. It is an important part of the remedial

* The effect of tartar emetic upon a highly irritable stomach is a well known fact. I feel surprised it should ever have been used in Scarlatina.

† When the vomiting is excessive, it will be promptly checked by the mint julep.

course that not more than one or two patients should be kept in the same room. Perfect quietude should be enjoined.

In the commencement of the attack should the pulse be strong and corded, and should this condition of the circulation be attended with great congestion of the brain or lungs; there can be no doubt about the propriety of extracting a small quantity of blood either by cups, or leeches, and even by the lancet; but generally this state of things can be relieved by diaphoresis brought on by the before mentioned means, conjoined with the use of sinapisms; which should never be suffered to remain on long enough to produce vesication. In this state of cerebral congestion emesis is produced with great difficulty, but whenever it can be with facility effected, it generally relieves the brain.

Cases sometimes occur, in which the patient is immediately struck down as it were, by a sudden prostration of the vital energies. In such cases the pulse suddenly sinks, the extremities become cold, and the patient appears, almost insensible. Here the system should be roused by sinapisms, and the exhibition of an active stimulant,* before an emetic is administered. But this should always be given and repeated until active vomiting is produced, so soon as the system appears to be sufficiently revived, for the stomach to be sensible of the presence of the medicine, and this should be followed by all the means necessary to keep up a determination to the surface.

Should ulceration and sloughing of the throat occur whatever may be the state of the pulse, the plan of treatment should be decidedly tonic. The Peruvian bark in tincture should be freely administered; and very often it will be proper to make free use of some active stimulant, especially if the pulse should be weak and failing. When diarrhœa occurs from swallowing the offensive secretions of the fauces, port wine may be given with advantage. After the disease has run its course, it frequently leaves unpleasant sequences,† such as suppuration of the glands, dropsical effusions, &c. At the same time that the remedies peculiar to such affections are freely administered; the system should be supported, by a generous but easily digested diet; and the use of Port or Madeira wines. Should any obstruction of the abdominal viscera appear to exist, small doses of calomel may be combined with the squills which is usually given to remove the dropsical swellings. Perhaps the most effectual mode of restoring tone to the skin, is the use of the warm salt bath.

But in treating of the secondary symptoms of scarlatina I speak of what seldom occurs, when the foregoing plan of treatment has been pursued. That shattered state of the system which gives rise to such consequences does not often take place, when the disease is managed after this manner. As a proof of this fact I refer to the experience of those who have tried it.

* Mint julep has been given with great advantage.

† Dr. Powell avers that he is not often troubled with secondary symptoms in his practice; and when they do occur they are generally easily removed.

If called in late, after a different mode of practice has been pursued, particularly if depletion has been carried to any extent, the proper course would be to commence immediately with the bark, for it but seldom happens that depletion does any good unless its effects are immediate. In other words if the patient does not mend promptly, and decidedly under depletion, we may always conclude the system to be in an adynamic condition after the attack has lasted several days. Very frequently in cases so treated, the patient, drops off when least expected, either by friends or physician. The pulse may be tolerably firm, and the general indications of strength cheering; still if the disease is at all severe at this late period, the patient may and does frequently sink with the greatest rapidity. Death in such cases is generally preceded by coma; any approach of which should be viewed with the greatest alarm.

To conclude. In the mild cases of scarlatina, patients will require but little attention; except to prevent them from being exposed to a draught of air keeping up a gentle moisture on the surface, and the bowels open; with ol. ricini, or some other mild cathartic. It would also be advisable to wash the throat occasionally with the pepper gargle. In the severe forms, the practitioner's main object should be to produce diaphoresis and steadily maintain it; and at the same time counteract the rapid failure of the system, exhibited in the general, but more particularly, in the local affections, by all the means previously recommended for that purpose.

Leesburg, Virginia, June, 1839.

MONOGRAPH.

ARTICLE IX. *On the Principal Diseases of the Liver.* BY N. CHAPMAN, M. D., Professor of the Practice of Medicine in the University of Pennsylvania.

No organ of the body, is much more curious or interesting in several respects, than the liver.

Like the stomach, it belongs to nearly every class of animals, and on account of its early development, its immense size, the peculiarities of its circulation, its intimate sympathies, as well moral as corporeal, and above all, from the high functions it performs in the animal economy, it is of our complicated and wonderful machine so important a portion, that its derangements deserve the utmost consideration.

I. *Hepatitis.* Commencing with hepatitis, or inflammation of the liver, I shall, successively bring into view the other affections, which are to claim my attention.

This disease comes on, for the most part, with the ordinary symptoms of pyrexia, such as chilliness or rigors—followed by flushes of heat, and finally fever. Nausea and vomiting are apt to take place, sometimes of bile, though oftener at first, of tough phlegm—and I have seen it of dark granulated matter, or of a perfect fluid of the same colour, or there is only a sense of epigastric or præcordial uneasiness, attended by deep sighing, and considerable jactitation and nervous wretchedness. The bowels are torpid, and the discharges small and costive, indicative of deficiency of biliary secretion, or a diversion of the fluid upwards, in consequence of puking, or, as may happen, some form of the intestinal fluxes prevails.

Concomitant on one of these conditions, or immediately succeeding to it, there is pain in the right hypochondrium, sometimes pungent, and in other instances dull, with feelings of fullness and weight—and on pressure, or from a deep inspiration or cough, an increased sensibility is betrayed.

The pain sometimes extends to the right clavicle, or to the top of the shoulder blade, and I have known it to be felt exclusively, and often more acutely there, than even in the region of the liver.

Cases, however, occur, and especially in women, where all the sufferings of the primary as well as the secondary affection, is in the opposite side, and here, probably the seat of the lesion is in the left lobe of the liver.

Commonly, the fever becomes high, with a strong, full, disturbed pulse, hot dry surface, foul coated tongue, bitter taste, much thirst and headache—and after a few days, the skin may be tinged of a dusky or bilious hue, in which latter the adnata participate,—and the urine, which is much reduced in quantity, is of the various shades of yellow to a deep saffron.

The liver is now sometimes so swollen, and tender, that the patient can lie on neither side, though he is most disposed to turn on that affected, as the least uncomfortable, being thereby relieved, in a degree, from the weight and oppression of the distended organ. Tenderness occasionally pervades

the whole abdomen, owing, to the extension of the inflammation, from the peritoneal covering of the liver, to that membrane generally. But I have seen hepatitis where there was no pain in the affected part, or at the shoulder, no sallowness of the cutaneous surface, or of the eyes, and very little aberration in the pulse. Greatly is the disease diversified by climate, and very prone is it to exhibit irregular and anomalous symptoms. Especially in India, its onset is sudden, sometimes without any premonition, and its course much more rapid and vehement, running to suppuration in a few days, and in some instances, without any distinct expression by pain or fever. The action is said to be rather congestive, with a mixture of inflammation, than actually inflammatory.

Nor is it uncommon for an attack to be ushered in and associated throughout, with the phenomena of diarrhoea, dysentery, or cholera morbus. Cases of the disease have also come under my notice, assuming the guise of gastritis, or to expend their force entirely on the head, producing the most relentless agony, with great mental disorder, or in the kidney, or at the umbilicus, or in the calf of the leg, with a numbness of one or both arms.

Cullen, and indeed most writers, have endeavoured to explain some of these deviations from the common order in the phenomena, on the supposition, that in such cases, different portions of the liver are affected.

Thus it is affirmed, that when there is a predominance of pectoral symptoms, the convex surface is inflamed—and conversely, if much gastric uneasiness prevails, the concave. It is also alleged, that the disease is modified, as the membranes, or parenchyma of the organ may be the seat of the affection. No doubt such is the fact. The peritoneal covering or ligaments being phlogosed, we shall have sharp, acute, lancinating pain, with a hard, corded, small pulse, and a white furred tongue, without the sallow hue, or vitiation of the biliary secretion—and very much the contrary, when the substance is phlogosed, or dull, obtuse sensations, with a fuller and slower circulation,—a brown or yellow, and more heavily loaded tongue, and an excess, or suppression or depravation of bile. But in most instances, each structure is involved, so that the phenomena become confounded. It is questionable, indeed, whether distinct inflammation of the peritoneal covering or its ligaments, ought to be considered as hepatitis. More properly it appertains to peritonitis.

An acute phlogosis of the liver itself is, for the most part, and always when intense, rapid in its progress, and if a decided impression be not made on the case, we shall perceive in a few days, either a sinking of the vital forces, or the signs of suppuration taking place, or a tendency to chronic degenerations.

Men, it is said, are much more liable to the disease, than women—and that it rarely shows itself in children.

The latter remark, however, is not of universal application. Children in miasmatic countries, are singularly subject to it, especially in the subacute, or chronic shape—and I suspect, that the greater number of cases among men, under ordinary circumstances, is referrible only to their depraved drunken habits, or greater exposure to its other or external causes.

Causes.—In common with the phlegmasia, hepatitis may be excited by the sudden vicissitudes of weather, cold succeeding to heat especially, or by mechanical injuries, as blows, falls, &c. Not an uncommon cause is the abuse of ardent liquors, or excess in eating, particularly of high seasoned or gross food. The former is insisted on, while the latter, is too generally overlooked.

Detrimental as intemperance in drink undoubtedly is, in this and other respects, I presume that our well being is not less affected by gluttony, and

that the good of society as much requires an institution for the reformation of the gourmand, as the drunkard. The inconsistency of mankind, sometimes very extraordinary, has rarely been more strikingly illustrated, than in this very instance. It might be instructive to listen to the denunciations of our modern moralists against whiskey potations in particular, were they not so often accompanied by the belchings of the fumes of ill digested turtle, or of luncheons of roast beef.

As to hepatic obstructions, I am quite sure, that such a course of living is a most prolific source. By Shakspeare, the closes, of observers, we are told:

"It engenders *choler*, planteth anger.
And better 'twere, that both of us did *fast*,
Since of ourselves, ourselves are *choleric*,
Than feed it with such overroasted stuff."

Temperance, I repeat, consists in moderation as well in eating as drinking, and he who wishes to preserve health or decency must alike restrain the "lusts of appetite," in each respect.

Milton has truly said:

"If thou well observe
In what thou *eat'st* and *drink'st*, seek from thence
Due nourishment, not gluttonous delight.
Till many years over thy head return:
So may'st thou live, till like ripe fruit thou drop
Into thy mother's lap, or be with ease
Gather'd not harshly pluck'd for death mature."

But of the physical agencies, perhaps the most operative are heat and miasmata. That the former alone, produces the disease, I am aware has been disputed. Not to repeat, what has been so often discussed, the influence of a high temperature in deranging the chylopoietic viscera, I have now only to state a fact of the effects of heat on the liver. The "*paté de foie gras*," so delicious to the epicure, is made chiefly of the liver of geese. It is well known, that at Strasburg on the Rhine, where this celebrated pie is prepared, the practice exists, with a view of giving a preternatural growth or hypertrophy to the liver, of placing a goose for some hours before a fire, and that even within so short a time, this organ is enormously swollen in its dimensions. As cold deranges the pulmonary, so does heat the hepatic apparatus, and each state of temperature is similarly distinguished by the variety of morbid conditions into which it respectively throws these organs.

Combined with miasmata the operation of heat is still more powerful, so much so indeed, that the disease is often endemic in such an exposure. We have examples of it in our own country, and still more strikingly along the coast of Coromandel, and in the alluvial districts of Bengal.

Nearly as much are brute animals liable to it in such situations, and particularly cattle and horses. Born under the morbid influence, they as the human species are less affected by it, though neither has an entire immunity. By some of the oriental writers, it is stated that animals in common with man, brought from Europe, speedily fall victims to it in large numbers, and I am told, it is equally so in relation to our southern states. Exactly the opposite holds as to pulmonary affections, or the natives of the warm, the human and the brute, suffering in this way, on a translation to a cold region.

In medium climates, hepatitis is seen chiefly in sporadic occurrences, and in its mildest presentations. As to this city and vicinity, I know this to be

true, and have reason to believe it to be the case in western Europe. But on some occasions it is otherwise, and hepatitis breaks out, and spreads extensively and violently. An instance of this kind happened in Ireland in 1818, where it previously had sparsely existed, the disease very frequently ending in abscess, such was the force of its character—and with us, during the existence of the epidemic constitutions, causing yellow and intermittent fever, the same was observed both as to the human species and animals, cattle and horses especially suffering, with what was called the yellow water, I presume from the urine having that colour, a febrile affection occasionally terminating in suppuration of the liver.

Certain mental emotions may also be included among the causes of the disease in the human subject. Exasperated anger, or terror, or jealousy, irritate and distend the liver, promotive of an increased secretion—while fear, or grief, or other depressing states, have an opposite effect.

The ancients were aware of the influence of jealousy, and its correspondent irritability and fractiousness on this organ.

Does not every classical scholar remember the beautiful lines of Horace, that Prince of Poets?

“Cum tu, Lydia, Telephi
Cervicem roseam, et cœrea Telephi
Laudas brachia, vœ, meum,
Fervens difficili bile tumet jecur.”

Even temper and character have such an influence on the organ, that to call the sour, the envious, and malignant, a white-livered fellow, has grown into a common phrase.

No less remarkable is it, that most of the complaints of the lungs, cheer and preserve the spirits while those of the liver induce dejection, gloom, and melancholy.

The very term *hypochondriasis*, is derived from the notion of antiquity, that it depended on some affection of the hypochondriac regions, and melancholy, from the Greek, signifying black bile. Between the brain and the liver, there would seem indeed, to be as close a physical as moral sympathy. We know, indeed, how much the former shares in all the diseases of the latter, and which is fully reciprocated. Concussions and other injuries of the brain have often been followed by suppuration of the liver, and conversely, lesions of the liver reflected on the brain. By the metastasis of gout, and still more frequently from the suppression of hæmorrhoids, though neither event is very common, this disease is occasioned.

Diagnosis.—No very great difficulty is there usually in the recognition of acute hepatitis.

The case with which it might be supposed most readily to be confounded, especially when the left lobe of the liver is affected, is splenitis. But this is of such rare occurrence, that even its very existence has been doubted, and of which I, at least, have never seen an instance.

Gastritis might, in the commencement, be more readily mistaken for inflamed liver, so greatly is the stomach irritated and disturbed occasionally. But after a while, the morbid action becoming more concentrated in the former organ, the phenomena are less confused or ambiguous. Equally may phlogosis of that portion of the colon approximating the liver be confounded with hepatitis. Yet by a careful examination, they are to be discriminated, and among the signs none perhaps, is entitled to greater confidence, than the imperfection of the process of fecation, when the intestine is concerned.

This disease is sometimes imitated by pneumonia. An accurate comparison, however, of the phenomena of the two complaints, will generally dissipate the obscurity. Even the pain, the cough, and impeded respiration, the symptoms which cause the perplexity in these cases, are not similar in all respects. They are in hepatitis, less prominently marked, and seem rather the result of secondary, than primary irritation of the lungs, and at the same time, we have indirect impression of hepatic disturbance, the gastric distress, the tenderness on pressure, with the peculiar appearance of the skin, and of the alvine and urinary discharges. No implicit reliance can be placed on the pain of the shoulder, to which such importance is generally attached. It is very frequently wanting, and when it does occur, is said by Louis to be more indicative of pulmonary than hepatic disorder, in which opinion, I do not concur. But, in the external means of exploration, percussion and auscultation, there is always a key to unlock the chest and expose it, as it were, to view. It may be further remarked, as strongly denoting hepatitis, that soon after the blood is drawn, or prior to its coagulation, it is of a dull green color, and on the separation of its constituent parts, the surface formed of the size or lymph more particularly, is yellow.

Prognosis.—An attack of acute hepatitis, ending favourably, or by resolution, is often distinguished by some critical discharge, as copious hæmorrhage from the nasal or hæmorrhoidal vessels, or profuse perspiration, or urinary, or alvine evacuations, or by erysipelas, the internal irritation being thus reflected on the cutaneous surface. Nature, however, not relieving herself in any of these modes, approaching convalescence is evinced by subsidence of fever, and topical pain, by tranquillity of the stomach, less constipation, and more bilious stools, with improvement of complexion.

An opposite conclusion is warranted, when such happy changes do not take place. Of the adverse terminations, one of the most common is in suppuration, and an abscess being formed, its contents may be variously evacuated. To have the matter pass out through the ducts is the most desirable, and next to this, externally. The abscess usually points over the region of the liver, though in one case it broke in the axilla.

As liable, however, is it to rupture inwardly, and here, unless the matter is thrown into the *primæ viæ*, the event is usually fatal. Most frequently it is emptied into the colon, though sometimes into one of the small intestines, or the stomach. Examples are recorded, where it opened into the abdominal cavity, proving mortal by inducing peritoneal inflammation or hectic fever. But such a catastrophe does not uniformly happen, we having instances where the fluid being absorbed, the event was favourable.

It is said to have burst into the thorax, the pus expectorated, and a final recovery, though, more commonly, suffocation has speedily followed such occurrences. Thirty years ago, Dr. Pascalis, of New York, then residing in this city, was supposed to have survived under these circumstances, and similar instances are related by Annesley and other writers.* But conclusions of this kind can only be conjectural, where no subsequent opportunity presents of an autopsic inspection. Expectoration of purulent matter does not afford positive evidence of the rupture of an hepatic abscess into the chest.

By sympathy, the mucous tissue of the lungs becomes phlogosed, and secretes pus. Formerly, a case of this kind occurred in our hospital, which, at the time, was thought very anomalous and perplexing. The patient died, having previously, for some weeks, expectorated pus freely, as

* See this Journal for Nov. 1837, p. 253, and for May 1838, p. 176.

was presumed, from an abscess of the liver communicating with the thorax. None, however, or even any adhesion, was discovered on dissection.

In a second instance of supposed hepatitis, the pus escaped with the urine, and, on examination after death, an abscess of the kidney was detected, the liver being perfectly sound.

Clarke mentions a case in which the matter escaped into the pericardium, and another of similar description is given by Smith of this country, to which a third has lately been added by Professor Graves, where the abscess communicated with both the pericardium and stomach—all three, of course, proving fatal.

From what has been said, much may be collected of the curability of this disease. Nearly always, with us, when timely and vigorously treated, it submits to our remedial processes. But under different circumstances, it proves otherwise very generally, by suppuration, or other organic lesions, which, sooner or later, terminate or embitter existence by the sequelæ entailed.

Louis says, that recoveries never happen where an abscess forms. Numerous as his examinations were, he met with no instance of cicatrization, or a tendency to it. But such negative testimony must not be received as conclusive, against the positive experience of many respectable authorities. Two instances of recovery I have known myself.

Lesions.—On a post mortem inspection, we find the liver more or less enlarged, and in those instances, where the serous covering is implicated, marks of phlogosis, which consist mostly of extravasations of lymph, less adhesive than usually, and with little disposition to become membranous, or to form attachments. Externally, the liver itself is of a livid, red, or marbled aspect, and what is observed on dissection of it, may, perhaps, be embraced under the several states of increased vascularity, softening of texture, suppuration, and gangrene. Commonly, the lesions are on the surface, though often also in the very substance of the viscus. Each portion may be independently affected, or both unitedly.

Death taking place in the early stage, the vessels are turgid with blood, productive of redness and swelling of the organ. Connected with these, in the second stage, the substance is brittle or friable, and being squeezed between the fingers, seems to be granular, though readily reduced to a pulp—and such is sometimes the ramollescence, that it is almost deliquescent. When the case is still further advanced, the texture is changed from a reddish to a yellowish hue, by the presence of pus, which gives to it this colouration. The purulent matter is diffused through the cellular structure, or collected in several small, or one large, or even enormous abscess. But instead of pus, it may be a heterogeneous fluid of a dark grayish colour, or resembling the washings of flesh, with flakes of blood in it. Genuine purulent abscesses are seldom met with in the temperate climates of Europe, or in this city. Louis states, that in four hundred and thirty dissections, he detected only five in the substance, and not one in the coverings—and suspects that the latter occurring, it is in the cellular membrane, between the peritoneal investment and the glandular structure of the organ.

Bichat asserts, that gangrene of the liver may take place, and which, though rarely, has been subsequently observed by Andral, &c. Never have I seen it, or heard of its being seen, in our investigations in this city in private or public practice. No one, perhaps, has had greater advantages than Annesely, in determining this point, from his long residence in India, the region most prolific of the disease, and from the ardour with which he seems

to have cultivated its pathological anatomy. But he, never meeting with it, is disposed to infer, that what has been apprehended to be gangrene, was the black congested and softened state of the viscus, incident to very violent attacks of the disease, or to a putrid condition induced after death, which conjectures I think very probable, as such appearances I have witnessed from each of the causes he alleges.

Besides the phenomena already noticed, it is not uncommon to remark inflammation, with other lesions, of the mucous lining of the gall bladder, and of the biliary ducts; frequently, also, of the stomach and the duodenum, and in some rare instances of the entire track of the alimentary tube, as well as of the peritoneum and other portions of the abdominal viscera. Nor does the brain, especially where much cerebral disturbance has prevailed, escape—it betraying, on the contrary, sometimes, all the manifestations of extreme sufferings.

Pathology.—Excepting the peritoneal covering, or ligaments are primarily engaged, where it may be otherwise, I believe, that in common with every other real hepatic affection, an inflammation of the liver, not occasioned by some direct act of violence, has its original seat in the stomach. An irritation is first given to the mucous surface of that viscus, and continuously, or by consent of parts, becomes extended to the duodenum, ductus choledochus, and finally, into the more intimate structure of that organ. These pathological views, having fully developed on a preceding occasion, I shall not again expatiate on the subject. Enough may it be for the present to state, that I am led to this conclusion by the history of the causes, their nature and mode of operation, the early symptoms, and appearances on dissection in hepatitis, when it terminates suddenly, and from its close analogy to the affections, which are undoubtedly of gastric origin. Many instances indeed of it come on in the form of gastritis, or diarrhœa, or dysentery, showing clearly that the liver is not here, at least, the seat of the first link in the chain of the morbid process. No pathological fact is better established, than that an irritation at the mouth of any duct, is speedily transmitted throughout its ramifications, with a tendency to involve all structures with which it may be connected.

An effect of this hepatic irritation, is a fluxionary movement, productive of more or less congestion of the portal circulation, by which the liver is distended and enlarged, followed usually by inflammation, with sometimes, ultimately, those diverse disorganizations incident to the case. From a concentration, however, of the morbid action in the liver, the original, or initiatory disturbance of the *primæ viæ*, is often relieved or becomes so subordinate as to be concealed or masked in many cases, though it may be different, or the whole series of affections from the first to the last, uninterruptedly maintained, and conspicuously exhibited. This is essentially the doctrine of Broussais, in which, however, he was anticipated by me, by many years.

Treatment.—The treatment of acute hepatitis is now generally understood, and pretty well defined. We have a case of active inflammation in a voluminous and important organ, which can only be arrested by prompt, vigorous, and decisive measures. Of these, incomparably the most effectual is venesection. Not to be dispensed with in any severe parenchymatous phlogosis, it is here peculiarly serviceable from the intimate connection of the organ with the venous circulation. The lancet, in many instances, is to be freely urged, and the operation to be repeated day after day, in vehement forms of the disease. Nor am I aware that in cases of a more congestive character, venesection should not be carried to the same extent. As vindicating the practice,

it may be stated, that on the loss of blood in either state, a most manifest subsidence of swelling and tenderness of the liver takes place, with a correspondent general improvement of condition.

Much may also be expected from topical bleeding, by cups or leeches, which, however, is more especially useful where the pain is acute, and dependent on inflammation of the coverings of the organ. It is customary to apply the leeches over the seat of the affection, and here they answer very well. But some of the recent writers insist that they prove still more efficient, when put around the anus. Considering the greater intimacy of connection of the vessels of this part, with the portal circulation, it is not improbable, and which indeed is confirmed by the decisive results of the hemorrhoidal flux in such cases. But then to prove so efficacious, the phlogosis or congestion must be seated chiefly in the substance of the liver.

Emollient cataplasms, or fomentations in any way to the affected side, are sometimes productive of great relief.

On adequate reduction of vascular excitement, the application of blisters becomes highly important.

Nevertheless, while using the lancet, and its immediate auxiliaries, we must not neglect some other means. It is confessed, on all hands, that where the stomach or intestines are not actively inflamed, purging is immensely serviceable. Calomel is the proper article, exhibited at night in a large dose, and worked off the next morning with Epsom salts or castor oil. To purge freely in this case, is of peculiar importance. The liver, while phlogosed, has also its secretory function suspended or impaired, and, though the former state may be subdued by the loss of blood, the cure will not be accomplished till the latter is restored. It has been justly remarked by Johnson, that the liver under such circumstances is like the female breast gorged with blood and stagnant milk, and unless the lactiferous ducts are emptied of their contents, suppuration will ensue, in spite of general or local bleeding and other means. Exactly so with regard to hepatitis. The biliary ducts must be emptied of the viscid and vitiated bile, by which they are obstructed, and the healthy secretion reinstated, or suppuration, or chronic disorganization, will take place. Now, to meet this indication, calomel, above all articles, is appropriate, it emulging the liver, and promoting its natural offices. Though many other purgatives will evacuate the bowels, it is the mercurial preparations only, that thus operate efficiently on the hepatic apparatus. Concurring in the design of subduing the febrile state, the anuionials, or the nitrate of potash, alone or combined, the neutral mixture, or any other mild febrifuge, may be usefully interposed.

Next, salivation is usually endeavoured. It has, however, been made a question by some, whether we should resort to it at the onset, or wait for the reduction of the phlogistic condition. But in my opinion, there can be no doubt of the preference of the latter course. To do otherwise, would indeed be, for the most part, nugatory—since, while there is much vascular excitement, mercury will rarely act, and, if it succeed, it only has the effect of exasperation, by the irritation it induces, preventive of the resolution of the phlogosis. Yet in India, pretty generally, and occasionally in our own climate, an opposite practice is pursued. The expediency of salivation, under any circumstances, or at any stage of acute hepatitis, is very doubtful with me. Nor is this view peculiar to myself. By a late writer of great authority on the diseases of India, the following language is held. He says, "I am anxious in the acute affections of the biliary organs, to avoid the constitutional effects of Calomel, because, I believe, that when these are pro-

duced, the energies, and vital resistance of the system are thereby impaired, and the presence of this mineral in the circulation tends to keep up in the inflamed part, a degree of excitement and irritative action, which would otherwise subside, and which I am persuaded tends in many instances, when allowed to proceed, to occasion chronic derangements of the viscus, and even abscesses, if the inflammation be seated in the glandular structure of the organ.*" Conformably to my own experience, it is far better in every respect, at this period of the case, so to manage mercury, as to attain its alterative, or revolutionary effect on the secretory functions, and which is to be done by small doses of calomel, or the blue pill, with opium and ipecacuanha, occasionally resorting to a mild laxative.

No plan of cure, however, will uniformly succeed—and, in defiance of our exertions, suppuration may ensue. Yet this event, though common in the intertropical and other very hot regions, is rare in temperate climates, and with us, may almost invariably be traced to negligent, inadequate, or no treatment at all, among the poor and vicious classes of society. The suppurative process is usually denoted in its approach, by an increase of pain, and sense of weight, and enlargement in the affected part—by a full, hard and active pulse, and the indications generally of more violent excitement.

Being completed, or in other words, the abscess existing, there is a remission of pain, or rather, it is exchanged for a dull, obuse, sensation, or, as occasionally happens, throbbings, or pulsating sensations, and, at the same time, there are rigors, with irregular exacerbations of fever, attended by flushes of the face and nocturnal sweats. Three heteroclyte symptoms, now and then occur, in this state of the disease. These are, a feeling of formication throughout the skin, an inability to sneeze, even when the strongest sternutatories are applied, and numbness, or loss of motion in one, or both of the lower extremities.

Even in the suppurative stage of the complaint, mercury has been recommended, without, however, any advantage. It is a fact, not generally known, though I have seen it abundantly verified, that mercury will hardly operate specifically in any disease, during the suppurative process, and which is strikingly exemplified in venereal buboes, where it exercises not the slightest influence. The two actions are incompatible, or that of the remedy is too feeble to overcome the morbid one.

An abscess may take such a direction inwardly, as not to be recognised. But pointing externally, so as to be perceptible, it should be matured by poultices, and then punctured. Cures, when the matter is thus let out, often follow, and very seldom, if it be permitted spontaneously to discharge. This is in conformity especially with the observations of the East India writers, and, perhaps, is readily explicable. By timely evacuating the contents, disorganisation is arrested, which otherwise becomes irreparably extreme.

From an indisposition to adhesion between the liver and parietes of the abdomen, the operation, however, is alleged to be not always safe, as an escape of the fluid into the periitoneal cavity may take place, and hence it is deemed prudent, previously to performing it, to endeavour to secure such adhesion. The expedient, hitherto adopted with this view, has been the establishment of a caustic issue over the affected part, which having failed in several instances, and death consequently resulting, is now much distrusted. It is proposed, as an efficient substitute, to make

an incision at the most prominent point, down to the peritoneum, keeping open the wound by pledgets of lint, and I have heard of some instances of its complete success. But though suggesting this new expedient in the case, it may be right to mention, that I have myself, or seen others operate in several instances, without regard to it, and no detriment accrued, the adhesion being perfect.

The abscess having been emptied in any way, or, indeed, while the matter remains, there is usually much debility and irritation, and the system is to be soothed by opiates, and sustained by a cordial, though mild diet, with the aid of tonics, particularly the nitric, or nitro-muriatic acid, which under such circumstances, may prove highly serviceable.

Need it be remarked, that during the inflammatory stage, the regimen ought to be strictly antiphlogistic, to be continued in the convalescence, and for a considerable time afterwards, with very little change, and, to prevent a relapse, the patient, when practicable, should remove from a miasmatic district, and forever abstain from gross, or stimulating food, and above all, alcoholic liquors.

II. Chronic Hepatitis. It has hitherto been the custom, from the vagueness of information on the subject, to include under this denomination, nearly every protracted lesion of the liver. Granting, that most of these affections originate from, or acquire inflammation in their progress, it is no less true, that others are independent of it, throughout all their stages, and hence, differing totally from them, in their pathology, and treatment. Even as to the former cases, the term chronic, as importing duration only, very imperfectly expresses the real condition, which is mostly that of subacute inflammation.

But a name is not of much consequence, when the sense is well defined, and may be adopted, or retained conventionally.

Cullen would teach us to believe, that the difference in the two cases is owing to the investing tunic of the liver being phlogosed in the acute, and the parenchyma, in the chronic state of the disease. But the explanation is utterly unsatisfactory, and has been accordingly long abandoned.

The fact is that, under such circumstances, we should have two distinct pathological conditions, the one an inflammation of the serous, and the other of the cellular tissue of which the parenchyma consists. But, as previously remarked, it is only the last that properly can be considered as hepatitis, the former being peritonitis. An hypothesis equally absurd has been advanced by Saunders, who supposes in the first, the system of the hepatic artery is concerned, and in the second, that of the vena portarum.

Symptoms.—Chronic hepatitis is so diversified in its aspects, that it is not easy to delineate it, in any general description. Taken, however, in its most common presentation, there is considerable local pain, usually obtuse, though occasionally exasperated into intense agony, sometimes attended by the sympathetic ache about the clavicle, or scapula. Mostly, the weight of the liver is sensibly felt, and by pressure on the diaphragm may excite cough, or create embarrassed respiration. With these topical affections, we have an assemblage of phenomena indicative of general or constitutional disturbance, such as inveterately dry skin, of a dusky or icterose hue—often much deprivation of the stomach, attended by a sense of fulness, costive bowels, and the stools clay, or slate coloured, inodorous, or very offensive—scanty dark urine, sometimes depositing a pink or lateritious sediment, or it is only turbid, from a mixture of mucosity, the whole accompanied by

more or less fever—the pulse being quick, firm and corded, or, as sometimes happens, its intermittent, and otherwise irregular, from a loss in the balance of the circulation, by the impeded movements of the blood through the infarcted liver. Consequent on this state, hæmorrhage is apt to occur from the liver itself—or the blood being otherwise determined, from the spleen, stomach, intestines, the lungs, and particularly from the nasal or hæmorrhoidal vessels. In the progress of the case, the bowels become harassed by tormina or flatulence, or colliquative diarrhœa ensues, the discharges being dark, or light coloured, slimy, or watery, or muddy, and very fœtid. Emaciation, henceforward, rapidly takes place, with œdema of the lower extremities, which with other effusions, leading to general dropy, is one of the modes in which the disease very frequently terminates.

The development of the disease, however, may be slower or less perceptible, so as to continue for months, or even years, without any manifestation of its existence, save a sense of fulness after meals with flatulence, sour eructations, palpitations, drowsiness, a disinclination to exertion, costiveness, depraved secretions, restlessness, and disturbed sleep, resembling, in the whole, original dyspepsia, for which it is usually mistaken, till the symptoms of hepatic affection are more unequivocally disclosed. Blended with this dyspeptic state, or independent of it, there may be in the advanced stage another train of secondary affections, as dry cough, or asthma, or other pulmonary lesions, or in other instances, a tremendous headach supervenes, recurring periodically, often eventuating, in children especially, in hydrocephalus, and, in more advanced life, in apoplexy or palsy. These are some of the ordinary aspects of the disease, which, however, are so infinitely varied, that it were impracticable, within any narrow limits, to delineate one half of its modifications.

Linked most intimately with nearly every part of the system, the liver, through the medium of its sympathies, either actually deranges them or simulates their affections. Extensive, too, as are these physical sufferings, our moral constitution is not permitted to escape. Even mania has been sometimes the result, and, still oftener, the deepest melancholy. Generally, however, the mind is gloomy, petulant, morose, despondent, the real being aggravated by fictitious afflictions, and in this reciprocal play of mind and body, a state may be induced, of which the vulture feeding on the liver of Prometheus is no exaggerated image!

Causes.—On the origin of chronic hepatitis, I have to remark that it is frequently the acute disease abated, though not cured, running into degenerations, or a primary condition of the same kind may be brought on by the slow and feeble impression of the causes already enumerated, as well, perhaps, as by some further agencies.

Combined heat and miasmata, however, are considered the most productive of the causes, and which may be so in certain regions, sometimes inducing the disease directly, though oftener entailing it as one of the sequelæ of autumnal fever, particularly the intermittent form of it. But drunkenness is, perhaps, little less influential among the vulgar in some sections of our country, and much may be ascribed to indolent, sedentary and voluptuous habits—in the higher classes of society, particularly in regard to eating. With the Romans, in the advanced and degenerate ages of the empire, the liver of geese became a choice luxury, and, to give it an enormous growth, the animal was nailed through its feet to one position, and crammed with food. What was thus effected in the goose is unintentionally brought about in the lazy and gluttonous geese of the human family!! The same result

takes place in cattle, hogs, and other animals, by high feeding in close confinement—they becoming what is called "*liver green*." Known to our farmers generally, the fact has been lately corroborated to me by the butchers of this city.

Nor can I help thinking, and on no slender grounds, that the extravagant use of mercury by many of our practitioners, in the treatment of autumnal fevers and other diseases, must also be assigned as a frequent cause of the chronic hepatic affections in some portions of the United States. More than any other article of the *Materia Medica*, at least, has it the power of exciting the actions of the liver, and it is a law of our nature, that all high excitement is followed by a correspondent degree of debility. From the circumstance of the prodigious employment of calomel in the cases to which I have alluded, amounting to several drachms daily, it seems to be no unreasonable supposition, that the hepatic apparatus, thus over-stimulated, should fall into collapse, and, in this condition of exhaustion, torpor to take place in the portal circulation, productive of congestion, eventuating in phlogosis, induration and other derangements. Doubtless in this mode do miasmata and high temperature, separately or unitedly, and the habitual consumption of ardent spirits operate to the same effect. As confirmatory of this view, it is stated, by Dr. Somervail, a most respectable physician, of the South of Virginia, who has practised medicine for nearly half a century in that section of the country, that till the introduction of mercury, a comparatively modern event there into the treatment of autumnal diseases, hepatitis was hardly known, and, subsequently, it has most widely prevailed. We have also seen, that it is the opinion of Annesley, whose opportunities of witnessing the effect were so ample, that the large use of mercury in the inflammatory stage of acute hepatitis, by an increase of excitement, has a tendency to induce chronic degenerations. That it occasions jaundice, most probably, by deranging the liver, will hereafter appear, as well on the authority of some cases which several years ago occurred to myself, as others, more recently reported, by highly respectable European writers, in support of the conclusion.

Be this however as it may, there can be no question whatever, that a very bad practice, in another respect, is a common cause of the disease. My allusion is to the premature and indiscriminate resort to stimulants and tonics, to the neglect of sufficient evacuations in our fevers—an evil which has immensely increased since the terror of typhus pervaded the nation. The abuse or misapplication of bark, wine, and ardent spirits, as remedies, I do believe has obstructed nearly as many livers and spleens as all the miasmata and heat of our climate.

Diagnosis.—Carefully traced, the symptoms I have detailed will, for the most part, satisfy us of the existence of chronic hepatitis, and, as regards enlargement and induration of the liver, all doubt may be removed by an actual examination, which is done by laying the patient on his back, his head low, and his knees drawn up, so as to relax the abdominal muscles, and simultaneously directing him to take a deep breath, to protrude the liver. But this organ may be much diseased without any enlargement, and even preternaturally diminished, so as not to be reached by any examination. Even the *tactus eruditus* will, in this application of it, fail. Nevertheless, there is one circumstance, without implicitly relying on it, which, I think, is entitled to great confidence. In every case of atrophy of the liver I have inspected, it had been marked during life by extraordinary palor of skin, even of pearly whiteness, or more of the hue of dingy white wax, exhibiting altogether an extreme exsanguineous condition and aspect. That an extreme penury of red

blood, the latter supplying the nutriment of organs, should lead to such an effect, is plausible in itself, though it is not so obvious why it is displayed more conspicuously in the liver. Yet peculiarities may be traced in the economy of that viscus, which might be made, perhaps, to account for the phenomenon.

Nor is the preceding the only source of perplexity. As incident to the liver as perhaps any organ, is a painful condition, entirely independent of phlogosis, which, from the analogy of some of the symptoms, might be misapprehended. It has hitherto been called *hepatalgia*, under which term is embraced nearly every *liver pain*, on whatever state it might depend, as the irritation or spasm, of biliary calculi, &c. Caused in any of these modes, there is little difficulty of discrimination, and, passing them over, I shall confine my remarks to an affection purely a neuralgia or nerve ache. Even, however, as to this pathological condition of the nerves, it may suffice, at present, to state that its prominent and peculiar features are the acuteness, the darting, fluctuating, and periodical nature of the pain, with the absence of fever, and other material hepatic or constitutional disturbance, in all which particulars differing from chronic hepatitis.

Diseases of other parts, however, may be mistaken for this of the liver. Chronic gastro-duodenitis, as well as the lingering inflammations of the colon, are of this description. Many of the cases of supposed hepatitis, on which I am consulted, turn out on examination to be intestinal lesions, and particularly of the arch of the colon, which latter indeed, I am inclined to suspect are far more common in every portion of our country than those of the liver. These lesions have, to some extent, a commonality of symptoms, and hence the obscurity of the diagnosis. There may be pain in the right hypochondriac, sallow complexion, much gastric disorder, hectic irritation, and great vitiation of the alvine, as well as the urinary discharges, in the whole of which, resembling chronic hepatitis.

Called on here to pronounce the most certain criterion, I should say it may be found in the character of the stools—those in hepatitis generally indicating the absence of bile, while the evacuations in colonitis as uniformly betray the loss of the faculty of fecation. This discriminating sign is, however, sometimes fallacious. The liver though much diseased, may be sufficiently sound in a part to secrete bile, and the colon so partially affected, as to elaborate some feces. To show the difficulty of the diagnosis, I will mention a case. It was that of a man brought into the Alms House Infirmary, with nearly every symptom of chronic hepatitis. He had previously been treated for such, by one of our best physicians, who, supposing an abscess of the liver, pointing externally, punctured it, and let out about three pints of pus. The man dying soon after his admission, we found, on opening him, that the arch of the colon, in the right hypochondrium, had adhered to the parietes of the abdomen, forming a large sac, filled with pus, the liver being perfectly healthy.

Prognosis.—Not more can be affirmed, with certainty, in regard to the prognosis, than that a considerable portion of these cases is curable, though only when the lesions are slight, and of no very long existence. Extensive, and confirmed injuries of structure are irremediable. Yet it often happens, that life is indefinitely protracted, where the liver is greatly affected, owing to a part of it remaining sound, and adequately performing the function of the secretion of bile.

Lesions.—The liver is found on a post-mortem examination, generally of a gray, or ashy hue, and altered in shape and dimensions, as well as texture, sometimes prodigiously enlarged, or conversely, wasted to a very diminutive

size, preternaturally hard or soft, tuberculated or interspersed with a collection of small abscesses, or one or two large ones, the latter among us, more common in the chronic than acute disease, the fluid contained being purulent or sanious, or of a caseous nature, or in place of abscesses the substance of the viscus converted into a cheesy, steatomatous, tallowy, cartilaginous, or osseous matter, or now and then, studded with hydatids. Examples of ulceration, even cancerous, occur, and in one instance at least, the whole of the parenchyma was removed by its ravages, leaving only the vessels, resembling a corroded preparation of the organ, as in the case of the celebrated Sir William Jones, who died in Bengal. An occasional event, is that of an extraordinary growth of the liver, without any material change in its structure, constituting a mere hypertrophy. The most remarkable instance, perhaps, of this kind on record, is one where the liver weighed forty pounds. But with enormous developments, it is generally diseased. We are told by Johnson, that he has seen it "of all sizes, and extending from the margin of the ribs, to various depths of the abdomen as far down as the pubes." Gooch gives a case where it weighed twenty-eight pounds—Baldinger another of twenty pounds—Bovet a third of eighteen pounds—and Mr. Abernethy one, which filled the whole cavity of the abdomen, without, however, his stating its weight. In several instances, I have seen it myself, of a very great size, though always much disorganized.

Not long since, I examined a case, where it occupied more than half of the abdomen, and weighed between fifteen and sixteen pounds. Considerable portions of it were scirrhusified—tubercles abounded—the gall bladder was greatly distended, and contained sixty-eight very large encisted calculi. Eight inches of the colon firmly adhered to it, and so embedded and incorporated with its substance, that it were difficult to have separated it even by dissection. The stomach, preternaturally small and apparently sound, was thrown out of its proper location, and laid vertically, in the left hypochondriac, concealing a very diminutive spleen—considerable scirrhusity of the pancreas existed, while the residue of the abdominal contents seemed only to be anormal by a reduction of dimensions.

An overgrowth of the liver to nearly an equal extent, as in the foregoing case, terminated the existence of the late Chief Justice Marshall. By the magnitude to which this viscus had attained,—the stomach, dislocated from its natural position, was forced into a perpendicular direction, its sides pressed into contact by the liver, so as to obliterate its cavity, and he being unable to retain nourishment, for it was rejected as soon as swallowed, finally sank from inanition, after a lengthened continuance of unmitigated sufferings. Thus perished this truly great and good man, leaving a void in a sphere of usefulness, which, in the eloquent language applied to another illustrious personage, no one could be found to fill, or who had even a tendency to fill, and bequeathing to his country a name, that makes it advantageously known in every enlightened portion of the world.

"Clarum et venerabile nomen
Gentibus, et multum nostræ quod proderat urbi."

Pathology.—Not much need be said of the pathology of this series of hepatic affections. Many instances resulting from the imperfect cures of acute hepatitis, may with propriety be considered as a more advanced stage of the same disease.

Commencing idiopathically, the case assumes the modification produced by a slower and more feeble progression of a similar morbid process. There is an identity, or nearly so, in the kind of action, though varied in the degree.

of activity and intensity. But while some of the pathological phenomena are to be deemed the ordinary results of inflammation, those of the more irregular deviations, consisting in new formations of structure, must be referred to vitiations in the nutritive functions.

It is by such interstitial depositions of scirrhus, steatomatous, tubercular, or other matter, that the character of the liver, or any other organ is altered, and being heaped on in excess, and without the plastic hand of nature to model it, exchanges its definite configurations, and dimensions, for the rude, enormous, and anomalous shapes, which these masses occasionally present.

Tracing the progress of this collection of anormal processes, it seems probable, that the first step, in most instances, is an undue afflux of blood to the liver, productive of congestion, which, disturbing its economy, leads on to those further changes, by which nutrition becomes irregular and depraved, each being a link of a consecutive chain. That the liver receives blood, under such circumstances, at the expense of the other abdominal contents, is presumable, from its undue growth, and by the diminished size of the organs with which it has the most immediate vascular connections.

As far as I know, this fact which, of late, has attracted some attention, was first promulgated by myself. Many years ago I suspected it, and all my subsequent inquiries in reference to it, have lent to its confirmation. The converse I have reason to believe to be equally true, or when there is an atrophy of the liver, and of an indurated texture, the spleen especially, is in the same proportion, increased in bulk and disorganized.

Treatment. From the difficulty of determining the precise condition of the organ, our practice is marked by no nicety of distinction, or exactness of remedial application in these affections.

An examination, as we have seen, may in some instances satisfy us of its enlargement. But whether this be owing to chronic phlogosis simply, or to any of the more formidable changes of structure, which have been noticed, no human perspicacity can positively divine.

Nor must we forget, that the liver may be most seriously affected without any augmentation of growth. Confiding in symptoms, or indeed any other signs, we shall generally be not a little perplexed, and very often egregiously deceived.

Believing however, that the case consists in no material structural lesion, that it is of comparatively recent date, and is caused merely by chronic phlogosis, or incipient induration, and these perhaps are the only curable states, the treatment best calculated to afford relief, is made up of moderate and repeated venesection, of the use of cups, or leeches, to be followed by a succession of blisters, or a caustic issue, over the region of the liver, aided by occasional purgings. An impression thus kept up on the intestines, does much to restore the healthy exercise of its functions. Calomel should be freely given, with this view every two or three nights, to be worked off in the morning with castor oil or Epsom salts, or magnesia, alone or united—and, perhaps, something is gained by the addition of the tincture of colchicum to the latter combination.

Among the secondary measures, various other deobstruents have been proposed, the gum ammoniacum, the taraxicum, &c. The former of these was much confided in by the late Professor Wistar, and several of the German authorities, whether on sufficient evidence of its utility, my own experience does not enable me to say. But in regard to the latter, I have much reason to suppose that it sometimes proves serviceable. It is particularly praised by Boerhaave, Bergius, Zimmermann, and other writers of the

continent of Europe, and also by Pemberton of England, in his work on the diseases of the viscera. Either the extract, or juice of the fresh leaves, is usually directed. Confirmatory of the efficacy of the latter, I have to state a fact which I learnt from a very intelligent grazier, that cattle penned during the winter, becoming what is called *livergrown*, are very soon relieved by being turned into fields in the spring, abounding with dandelion. The annexed I have found an excellent prescription, in the dose of an ounce, or more, several times a day.*

Means of this sort failing, we are next to resort to a course of mercury. But here a salivation, particularly a deep one, is in all cases to be avoided. The object is to bring back the organ to its natural state, to be effected by an alterative operation. Minute doses of calomel, or the blue pill, with opium, are to be insinuated till the system is perceived to be under its impression, denoted chiefly by an improvement in the secretions, and which is to be maintained, without abatement, for several weeks, and in the more inveterate cases, with occasional intermissions, for months.

In the use of mercury, however, some discrimination is demanded. Its salutary effects, under all circumstances, may be mainly ascribed to the promotion of the biliary, and other secretions, and failing to do this, it proves inert and nugatory, or causes a pernicious state of irritation, or positive phlogosis, with an irregular febrile movement. In the management of the chronic affections of the liver of every description, these are considerations which should invariably control its employment—continuing or discarding it, according to the mode in which it affects the system. Not a few instances I have seen of hepatitis as well as of jaundice, in which the condition was most unequivocally deteriorated by neglect of these practical maxims, and some, where irreparable mischief was entailed by a lengthened persistence in a mistaken course.

Disappointed with the internal use of mercury, or the bowels being too irritable to retain it, inunctions may be employed. Nitro-muriatic acid externally, as well as internally, is substituted for mercury, where the latter has proved ineffectual, or, for any reason, is deemed inadmissible.

It may be added, that, internally, some of the preparations of iodine, and still more frictions with the ointment over the right side, have been used, and that we are not without proof of their success. Yet I have seen nothing myself to inspire any very great confidence in their efficacy. To assuage pain, or to procure rest, or to remove undue irritation, opiates on the whole are to be preferred, though the cicuta, henbane, belladonna, stramonium, &c., may be tried.

That, in these cases, reliance is placed mainly on mercury must be apparent, and in recommending it, having previously mentioned it as one of the causes of the disease, it may seem that I am guilty of an inconsistency. But such an imputation is not just, and cannot be sustained. It is against the abuse of the article I protest: and do not instances occasionally present, where the same agent is the cause and the remedy of the disease? This indeed is so true that we have the old aphorism, "*similia similibus curentur*." Take for illustrations of it, delirium tremens, the atonic states of the stomach from intemperance, &c. Do we not frequently resort to that very stimulant as a cure, which, improperly used, had produced the condition we are endeavouring to redress? Like the fabulous sword, the rust on which healed the wound inflicted by its point, mercury here cures the mischief it had occa-

* R.—Infus. Tarax. ℥iv; Extr. Tarax. ℥ij; Carb. Sodæ ℥ss; Tart. Potass, Tinct. Rhei aa ℥ijj.—M.

sioned. Even admitting that the case of hepatitis, we are called to treat, could be indisputably traced to the undue employment of that article, it would still be the appropriate means of relief. The liver being torpid, we should recur to mercury, from its well known specific powers of exciting and restoring its healthy functions.

An exception, however, may be found to the use of mercury in the atrophic state of the liver connected, as formerly described, with a defect in the process of hematosis. It is here the most pernicious of medicines, and, in place of it, the martial preparations, the phosphate of iron *par excellence*, with a well regulated animal diet, and exercise substituted.

Finally, I have to remark, that these hepatic affections, even when pretty well eradicated, are very apt to leave behind a very impaired state of health, manifested chiefly in derangement of the digestive functions, with general debility and wretchedness of feelings. As this, however, constitutes a distinct pathological condition, interesting as it is, I cannot properly enter now into the consideration of it, and must be content to refer, as a guide to its treatment, to what is usually done in the inveterate forms of dyspepsia.

III. Congestions of the Liver.—From the peculiar character of the circulation of the liver, which is more venous than arterial, we might presume its liability to this pathological condition, independently of the direct evidence of the fact. Its acute affections, indeed, of which I have already treated, participate of this character, and especially in the early stage. But it is soon supplanted by inflammation, or, if any of it remains, it is in so subordinate a degree as to lose all prominence, and may be completely masked or concealed. Engorgement simple, or unmixed with any other lesion, is the state to which I have now reference. This occurs under very different circumstances, exists in diverse proportions, either partially or to a great extent, and varies in its nature.

Symptoms. An attack, for the most part, is very sudden, or with little or no premonition. Extreme languor, however, may be previously complained of, soon followed by chilliness, with some degree of collapse—while, in other instances, these precursory symptoms are altogether absent. But, whichever may be the mode of aggression, a developed case of violence is characterized by sensations of fulness of the liver, sometimes amounting to an uncomfortable ache, or even positive pain, attended by an evident distension of the region of that viscus, and tenderness on pressure—by short, panting, and laborious respiration, by nausea, and sometimes vomiting and cramps of the stomach or bowels, and by a weak and emptied or a full, struggling, interrupted pulse, without any febrile reaction, and occasionally by hæmorrhage. But, on the contrary, where the attack is lenient, or more gradually comes on, most of these symptoms at first are wanting, and the affection has actually endured for a considerable period, with scarcely any inconvenience, or other evidence of its existence, save that derived from an inspection of the right hypochondrium.

This affection is often one of the introductory symptoms of the cold stage of malignant autumnal fevers, especially intermittents of this nature—and I once met with it proceeding from the immediate influence of an exposure to the low temperature of an ice house—and, in another instance, from a copious draught of intensely cold water, when the system was heated and fatigued. Examples are also reported of its being brought on by impediments to the circulation in the right side of the heart, leading to an accumulation of blood in the liver, and we are told by Andral that it may be occa-

sioned in the fœtus, by some mechanical cause, during parturition. But, though sometimes it is thus induced, the case which I have more immediately in view is generally assignable to extreme heat, separately or combined with miasmata, of the effects of which, there is abundant proof afforded in our hot, low, marshy districts of country.

Diagnosis. From hepatitis this condition, when well marked, may be distinguished by the suddenness of the invasion, the exemption from fever, the peculiarity of the circulation, the obtuseness of the pain, the comparatively slight sensibility to local pressure, and the aspect of collapse and exhaustion.

Prognosis. Engorgements of the liver, heavily oppressive, are always alarming, and still more so in proportion as they are passive, or occur in the feeble, or during an epidemic prevalence of fevers. Differently circumstanced, they prove of far easier management, and are often speedily relieved.

Dissection reveals appearances according to the gradations of the affection. It having been vehement and extensive, we find the liver swollen into large dimensions, with little change of consistence, and of a reddish purple, or of a dull brick hue. Dark blood, on an incision into it, flows out very freely, and the interior structure is very much of the colour of the external surface. Both the large and the small vessels are prodigiously injected, the blood still retained in them, though sometimes there are extravasations of it in clots, and in other instances, infiltration of it through the parenchymatous texture, constituting an *hepatic apoplexy*. These effusions, as well as the more copious hæmorrhage, which may occur, seem to be owing chiefly, to an exhalation from the minute extremities, and not to a rupture of any great vessel—such an event having been very seldom observed. The lesions, however, which I have described, may be more partial, or limited only to portions of the liver, the residue of the organ exhibiting little, or very slight aberrations from its natural aspect and condition.

Pathology. Contemplating the phenomena of this case, in its ordinary exhibition, it clearly appears to consist in passive, or very atonic congestion, from a loss of that power in the vessels by which the circulating movements are maintained. The same view is held by a celebrated writer, (Andral,) who goes even farther, and declares, that in the worst form of it, at least, “the blood collects in the liver exactly as it does in the gums in scurvy.” Nevertheless, it is very conceivable, though I confess, I have never witnessed such an instance, that the affection may present much greater activity than has been represented. It is, however, probable, that any high degree of such a state, could not long be continued, from its tendency to bring on inflammation, by which conversion, we should have hepatitis.

Whatever notion may be entertained of its pathology, the great aim in the treatment of the affection, must be to remove the concentration of blood, and with integrity of constitution, this is undoubtedly best effected by copious venesection. But if it be not admissible to such extent, or tried without success, then to resort to cups over the affected part. Great advantage is derived from emetics, owing doubtless to their power to emulge, or unload oppressed organs, and to re-establish an equal circulation. Nor is purging with calomel, on the same principle, of scarcely less efficacy. Blisters are also useful. It will, indeed, be often found the best practice in the weaker congestions, and especially when the vital forces are very languidly exercised, that while depleting, to employ stimulants the most diffusive and energetic. But to discuss this point as it deserves, would require a wider range than I can now appropriate to it.

That such hepatic congestions, as I have had in view, ever become chro-

nic, does not very clearly appear, unless the state which I am next to notice, may be so deemed. My allusion is, to what has hitherto been called:

IV. *Hepaticula.* This term is a diminutive of hepatitis, and was adopted to express the smallest degree of the chronic state of the latter disease. It may, perhaps, in this sense, be sometimes properly applied, though I am inclined to believe that the affection to which it is appropriated is, for the most part, independent of inflammation.

The pathological condition, considered as *hepaticula*, is characterized by a sallow complexion, more of the lemon than orange tinge, or sometimes by a dingy white—by much laxity of the integuments, with the aspect of bloatedness, particularly of the abdomen, which is exceedingly tumid—occasionally œdema of the lower limbs—dry, husky, unperspirable skin—shortness of breath on the slightest exertion—costive bowels—clay, ash, or slate coloured stools—deficient, dark, or loaded urine—sluggishness of body—hebetude of mind—pevishness of temper, and dejection of spirits. The pulse is mostly little affected, sometimes, however, feeble—while, in other instances, it is full, slow, and may be intermittent, or otherwise irregular. No acuteness of pain is felt in the region of the liver, or tenderness betrayed on pressure, the complaint being rather of a disagreeable ache, or a severe sense of distension. This state of things may continue for a long period without much alteration, prone, as it generally is, to further degenerations. Commonly these are a wasting, slow, irritative fever, heightened by an exacerbation at night, subsiding with copious perspiration, ultimately followed by colliquative diarrhoea, or it more speedily eventuates in hæmorrhage of dark blood or general dropsy, or the whole united, or some other fatal disorder. It is familiarly called throughout our Southern States, where it abounds, **INWARD FEVER!**

Examples of this affection are to be met with among persons of all ages, though more so in children, habituated to the influence of miasmata. Being partially acclimated, as it were, this cause of fever, and of the more special disturbances of the liver in such positions, operates with comparative lightness, and hence the only sensible effect is to swell and derange that organ. But it is also consequential sometimes on ill-cured intermittent and other fall fevers.

To discriminate between this affection and chronic hepatitis, may be embarrassing on some occasions. Much, however, is to be learnt, with this view, at all times, from the general physiognomy, and the usual absence of acute pain, and the other incidents of positive inflammation, are very decisive.

Commonly, in the beginning, or at an early stage, the affection is easily removed, and reversely when it becomes inveterately fixed by neglect or improper management—changes having then taken place on which salutary impressions are rarely made.

Of the anatomical characters, I am not very accurately informed. The liver is mostly enlarged, sometimes enormously, with a firmer texture than natural, though I have seen it softer, and retaining pretty nearly its ordinary colour—the external surface, being seemingly little affected, whether of the serous covering, or of the organ itself. Dissection of it shows excessive congestion, and dark blood issues forth very copiously. Few traces of unequivocal phlogosis have I observed. Differing from all this, the liver is occasionally found of reduced dimensions, even actually atrophied, of a pallid hue, and of a condensed consistence, with defective vascularity. No doubt other, and perhaps more important, alterations take place, and, indeed, may have been reported, of which, however, I have no knowledge.

From this account it is, I think, to be inferred, that the real pathological condition of the case is, that of venous engorgement of the liver, induced by torpor of the portal circulation, from the constant exposure to the operation of miasmatic influence. But such a condition cannot long endure without a tendency to further lesions—and it is reasonable to presume that these, in some instances, do occur, even inflammation and its consequences.

In the management of these cases, we must be governed essentially by the state of the system. The loss of blood, generally or locally, will be demanded where there is an increase of vascular action, or any considerable fulness in the affected part, to be followed by counter irritation. But, this exasperated condition not existing, we may at once commence the use of purges, selecting those articles which operate more directly on the lower portion of the bowels. Combinations of calomel and aloes, with the compound extract of colocynth, are well suited for this purpose, and an application of leeches around the anus will be found very advantageously to co-operate in the design of diverting the circulation from the liver to the rectum. An alterative course of the blue pill may next be tried, and also the nitro-muriatic acid externally. The vapour bath is, moreover, very useful. Cases I have repeatedly seen benefited by it, and some where cures were promptly and completely accomplished.

In the leucophlegmatic variety of this affection, usually associated with an atrophied liver, or indeed under any circumstances, of much debility, the best remedies are the martial preparations, especially the phosphate of iron, aided by a nourishing diet, exercise by swinging, or on horseback, or a long journey if practicable. But, above all, should the individual live in a miasmatic district, let him escape from it, by which alone cures are often effected—and this is an additional reason with me for supposing that no essential disorganization exists in the case.

It remains to remark, that in many instances of protracted hepatic disturbance, whether inflammatory or otherwise, after our best exertions have proved abortive, relief is afforded by resorting to our mineral, particularly the Sulphur springs, the best of which are those of Virginia. Eminently, however, as these are entitled to commendation, I am persuaded that not less may be derived from the thermal baths of the Warm and Hot springs of the same neighbourhood, each being adapted to meet different indications, and should, perhaps, be brought to co-operate in the treatment of most cases of chronic hepatic disease.

MEDICAL EDUCATION AND INSTITUTIONS.

ARTICLE X. *The Gleanings in the East of a ci-devant Invalid, in 1838.*
BY VALENTINE MOTT, M. D., of New York.

AMIDST the political and moral degradation of the Egyptians, we were delighted to witness the attempts at the formation of a medical school, and the establishment of well educated medical men among them. The countenance and protection given by the Pasha of Egypt, Mahomet Ali, to Europeans to reside in the country, is every where apparent. French, Germans, Italians and English are to be met with filling important and responsible stations in the army, navy, medical school, and about the court and person of this celebrated eastern despot. Whether this be for selfish, or humane objects, is a question which must naturally arise in the mind of every observer, who travels in that country; and there are few, we think, who will not ascribe it to the former. But a great general good to the Egyptians must nevertheless flow, from this almost only wise policy of their cruel and hard master.

From a fear too no doubt, that a sufficient inducement could not be held out, for foreigners of merit to take up their residence in this benighted country, the Pasha has from time to time been in the habit of sending to the medical schools of Europe, and particularly of France, a number of young Arabs, to be educated at the expense of the government. In this way a ready communication is had with the foreign practitioners and the native élèves of the country, who assemble in the hospitals and medical schools, until the former have acquired a sufficient knowledge of the Arabic language to impart instruction to them in their native tongue. In this way we have witnessed the lessons of the professor conveyed to the pupil by a young Egyptian physician who had been educated in Paris, French being the language used for this purpose. The Arabic, as I was informed by the professors, is extremely difficult to be acquired, and those only who had resided in the country for eight or ten years, were able to read it and above all to speak and understand it sufficiently well to hold intercourse with the natives and impart instruction directly to the pupils.

The medical school of Egypt, which for some years has been located at *Abou-Zabel*, is now removed to *Esbekie*, in the immediate vicinity of Cairo; the former being too remote from the capital, to enable the professors, from their necessary duties in private practice, to do full justice to the institution. The school makes part of a large and well arranged military hospital, beautifully and pleasantly situated on the western bank of the Nile, in the suburbs of Cairo. This hospital contained thirteen hundred patients when

we visited it. The immediate connection of the medical school with this large hospital, together, making one great edifice, is in my opinion an admirable arrangement for the benefit of the pupils, and well deserving of imitation in other and more enlightened countries. The lecture rooms of the professors are all exceedingly well arranged, and the amphitheatre for anatomy is particularly well constructed, with an abundance of light from a cupola on the top. A large and well arranged pharmacy, with specimens of every kind of domestic and foreign drug, while it abundantly supplies medicines to the wants of the hospital, serves as a means of instructing the students. A large laboratory is connected with it, in which the new chemicals, such as alkaloids, and others, are prepared, to answer the demands of the physicians, and at the same time extend information to the pupils, by making them acquainted with chemical pharmacy.

The number of pupils attending the lectures at the time of our visit, was two hundred and sixty. They are not only attendants upon the lectures of the professors, but residents in the hospital, in order to observe the treatment of the patients, and to become familiar with the almost endless forms and features of disease.

They are all educated at the public expense, have their quarters in the hospital, where they eat and sleep, and are obedient to a regular military and medical discipline, and rank as *sous aides*, in the surgical staff of the army. Here they are compelled to remain from three to four years in the constant pursuit of their studies, and in the regular observance of disease, at all times obedient to the call of their superiors, and ready to administer to the wants of the patients.

The beautiful order and methodical arrangements, as well as neatness, in every part of this establishment, surprised and delighted me. It unites the activity of the French, with the cleanliness and good system of the German hospitals, and therefore may be said to have the excellence of both.

The anatomical museum is very respectable, and will serve as the nucleus of a good collection. It consists mostly of bones, casts, and wax models, with the excellent tributary aids, of parts, and the whole subject, of the ingenious invention of Doctor Auzoux. From the expense of alcohol, and the great waste, owing to the excessive heat and dryness of the climate of Egypt, few or no specimens of morbid parts can be preserved as wet preparations. They are compelled to resort to drawings and wax models, to perpetuate their similitude.

The apparatus for the illustration of the physical sciences is neat, and sufficiently ample.

The Civil Hospital is situated in the city of Cairo, and is located in a spacious building, but recently one of the palaces of Mahomet Ali. It is placed very favourably for good air, near the principal square of this very curious and truly oriental city. It is an admirable transfer of the noble and superfluous domain of a single individual to humane and charitable purposes, to the wants, necessities, and the afflictions of the poor and the diseased. As the medical officers informed me, it had only been established about one year, and was but a beginning of an asylum, and a home, for the suffering and the sick.

It contained between two and three hundred patients, besides apartments, especially appropriated for a lying-in establishment. Although there is a male and female department in the same building, there is the peculiar eastern vigilance, and harem-like care, that the females shall not even be

seen by the male patients. On no pretence, whatever, is any male admitted into the female part of the hospital unless he be a professional man, and then he must accompany a medical officer of the establishment, who only has authority to introduce him.

Connected with this *maternité*, is a school for the education of young women, to fit them properly to be *accoucheuses* or *sages femmes*. It has a well organised class of young females from the age of fifteen to twenty, under the care of a French professor, aided by a young Arab, whose acquaintance with the French language enabled the pupils to comprehend readily the lessons of the principal. The class consisted, on the day of our visit, of sixteen. They were dressed as Europeans, were very neat and respectable in their appearance, and exhibited various tints, and shades of colour, from the tawny Arab, to the jet black Nubian and Abyssinian.

They were all assembled in the class, at their lessons, when we entered, and were receiving instruction from the professor. Their note books were in Arabic and French. I was requested to test the practical knowledge of one of them on the mannikin. One, the most convenient, and as black as ebony, was requested to come forward. Different questions in French were put through the young Egyptian, and on the machines the pupil proved by her manipulations with the *fœtus*, that she not only comprehended perfectly the question, but that she understood well the subject.

When their knowledge is thought sufficient, they are permitted to exercise the art upon the patients of the institution. In this way, after a residence of some time in the hospital, subjected to regular discipline and instruction, they become very competent practitioners of this branch of the profession. They informed me that all of them were educated at the expense of the Pasha, and that his object was to place them in the harems, and thereby dispense with male obstetricians; that Mahomet Ali, from time to time, was in the practice of purchasing young females at the slave market at Cairo, and placing them in the *maternité* for instruction. In this way he kept up a constant supply for the wants of the different harems of his family and favourites.

This establishment is undoubtedly founded upon the liberal and humane plans of the French, who annually educate, and send forth a large number of well instructed and competent young women, not only in every direction through their own provinces, but into other countries. It is to be hoped, that in Egypt, a more enlarged and liberal view will be taken of this system, and ere long that its salutary and benign influence, will be extended, far beyond the gardens and walls of the harems; and that the almost countless poor, may receive something in return for what they labour so hard to support.

Every facility seemed to be afforded in this obstetric school, in preparations, apparatus and instruments, as well as the living subject, to make the pupils competent and useful practitioners.

An attempt is making at Athens, the present capital of the modern Greek empire, to organize a medical school, by several well educated and respectable Bavarian physicians and surgeons, who are attached to the court, and whom King Otho has induced to settle in his country. At the time of my visit, (April 1838,) they had from nine to twelve pupils, natives of the country, who were lectured to by the Germans in the modern Greek language; the professors from a residence of several years in the country, being able to impart instruction to the pupils in their native tongue. Although

it is the merest beginning of a medical school, it is nevertheless praiseworthy and honourable to its present founders, and may be the germ of an institution, which shall move onward hand in hand, with the regeneration of poor fallen Greece. It may be, that from this embryo of a medical school, in far distant time, the continent and the islands may echo again with the fame of another Hippocrates, an Erasistratus and a Heriophalus.

Athens possesses at this moment a most excellent military hospital, arranged upon the modern-European plan, capable of containing very comfortably several hundred patients. Also a highly respectable and well arranged cabinet of Natural History.

Even in the mighty capital of the Ottoman empire, Constantinople, the light of medical science is beginning to dawn. A medical school is already commenced, under the sanction of the noble, and enlightened Sultan Mahmoud. The teachers are all Europeans, mostly Italians, and they are giving instruction to from fifteen to twenty native pupils.

From what I saw of the diseases of Greece, both in the hospital at Athens, and in the practice of two of the physicians attached to the court of King Otho, they appear to be generally of an inflammatory character. This is especially true with those of a febrile form, and the brain seems to be the organ in which this is most particularly manifested. All their endemic fevers commence with strong synochal symptoms, and are remarkably fatal to new comers during the cerebral determination. If they escape from this stage, they are precipitated very speedily into a profound typhus, or it assumes an intermittent fever of the quotidian or tertian types. These latter, continue with great obstinacy in defiance of quinine and arsenic, and frequently terminate fatally in general hydropic effusions, and hypertrophy of the spleen.

The Greeks are generally a very temperate people, and from living in a mild climate, subject to few sudden variations, and an atmosphere the purest and possessing a clearness and transparency that far exceeds any thing I ever met with in any other country, are consequently a hardy and vigorous race. The great distance at which an object can be seen, and the deception thence arising in the computation of hours or miles in travelling, was a frequent remark with my companions and myself, and we found that the same thing had been noticed by foreigners resident in the country.

It ought to be recollected by all who visit Greece, that an abstemious mode of living, and particularly great moderation in the use of stimulating drinks, is essential to the preservation of health. From my own observation less wine can be borne in that climate, than in any I ever visited. Every year at Athens I found that the endemic fever was fatal to many Europeans, from imprudence in indulging in their accustomed quantity of stimulating drinks, particularly wines. Although the wines of the country generally, are not agreeable to travellers, from a strong terebinthinate impregnation which they give them and which they consider one of their excellent qualities, the good wines of France and Spain are to be obtained at Athens and Romania di Napoli; and at the latter places the delicious wines of some of the Islands of the Archipelago, as Samos, Tenedos, &c. may also be met with. All these wines, though lighter and milder than those of Europe generally, ought to be indulged in sparingly.

An autopsy, which took place during my visit to Athens, confirms the statement above made of the inflammatory character of the febrile diseases, and that the serous membranes of the brain, the arachnoid and the pia mater are the seat of inflammation. From a single case no one would be war-

ranted in drawing a general conclusion, but when that case is said by professional and competent judges, to be a good specimen of the common appearances after death, it authorises the induction.

Shortly after my arrival at Athens, I was waited upon by Dr. Razor, physician to the Queen, to witness an examination of the body of a favourite *femme de chambre* of her majesty, who had died after a few days illness of fever, attended with great cerebral determination. As he anticipated and predicted there were evidences of inflammation of the two inner coverings of the brain, with serous effusions, between the dura mater and arachnoid membrane to account for the fatal issue of the case.

The *Lepra* of Greece, I had long felt a great desire to examine, and took the opportunity of visiting some cases of it through the politeness of Dr. R. and of making numerous inquiries of him as to the general character and treatment of this ancient and curious disease. It bears a very striking resemblance to the venereal disease, in its primary and secondary or confirmed stages. So marked indeed is the coincidence, that it does not appear to me to be going too far to say that it may be the parent or progenitor of lues venerea. It attacks primarily the genital organs, then the throat, skin, and lastly the bones. It is generally a more chronic affection than lues as we commonly see it, but it assails the same parts and resembles many cases of lues, such as I have often seen; so much so, that Dr. Jackson of New York, my travelling companion, as well as myself, confessed, that it would not be in our power to discriminate between them. The lepra on the genitals, and in the throat is commonly attended with more hardened and elevated ulcerations, with more hypertrophy of the surrounding tissues, than ordinary cases of lues, but such precisely, as I have seen in the venereal disease. The affection of the skin resembles the worst and most vitiated forms of syphilitic eruption, such for example as the large elevated, conical and concentric scab.

Such is the horror that the Greeks have of this disease, that they abandon their dearest and best friends; and the unfortunate victim is frequently obliged to seek refuge among the beasts of the field, and in the recesses of the mountains. An instance of this I saw in the plains of Argos, of a wretched man, affected with this loathsome malady, shunned by every one, friendless and homeless. Even when it appears among the better part of these people, it is considered a sufficient ground in either sex for a divorce, and it is sanctioned both by the civil and ecclesiastical laws.

Lepa is no longer considered as an incurable disease. It is more intractable and obstinate than common forms or cases of lues venerea, but is found to yield to proper treatment. The remedies most successful, are the same as in syphilis—mercurial and arsenical. Of all the forms of mercury, the corrosive sublimate, with sarsaparilla, is found the most efficacious. In obstinate cases, after the mercurial treatment has been long continued, without curative effects, the arsenical is substituted with the happiest results. The analogy here, too, is very striking, as every one must have observed the same thing in the treatment of the venereal disease.

In Egypt we found the lepra to assume the same features, and to be treated in the same way by the European practitioners, as it was in Greece. Syphilis, in all its forms, is also very prevalent in both these countries, but is a much more mild disease, and yields more readily to remedies, than in Europe or America.

The dry and arid climate of Egypt, while it seems to render these diseases more mild, and particularly syphilis, produces in the Arabs a variety of obstinate cutaneous affections. We saw many cases of the different forms of porrigo, but it readily yielded to cleanliness and the application of an ointment composed of equal parts of lard or common cerate, tar and powdered charcoal. Want of cleanliness alone, cannot be said to cause this affection, as the Arabs generally are worshippers of the Prophet, and have their heads shaved, and observe the ordinances of their religion, with much more exactness, punctuality and fidelity than the Christians. Before they turn their faces towards Mecca, and offer their prayers, which are most imposing and solemn, they invariably wash their faces, hands and feet; and this they do, three and five times in twenty-four hours. The other parts of their bodies receive very little attention, and consequently, are in a more filthy condition.

The Egyptians are a very temperate people from necessity; there is no wine or ardent spirits peculiar to the country. To this, more than to climate alone, we would ascribe the greater readiness with which their diseases yield to treatment. From the state of nature in which they live, there is very little predisposition to inflammation; and hence the readiness with which they recover from wounds, and the remarkable success of surgical operations.

The salutary and desirable process of union by the first intention, or adhesion, is much more common and complete than in any part of Europe, or even in America. This has been ascribed by some, to the heat and dryness of the climate alone; but we would give a part of the credit to the sound and natural constitutions of the Arabs. In the more civilised and refined countries of Europe and America, there is frequently either too much inflammation, or too high a degree of irritability, to have this object accomplished. Both these states of the system, are well known by every surgeon, to interfere with, and indeed, frequently to frustrate this process entirely.

Even the wound made in the operation of lithotomy, which is performed in the lateral way, except that the prostate and neck of the bladder are cut directly downwards towards the rectum as recommended and practised by Vacca, frequently heals by the first intention, as I was informed by Dr. Pruner, a very intelligent and distinguished German surgeon, at Cairo, who ranks high in the confidence of Mahomet Ali.

My experience in New York warrants me in saying, that the adhesive inflammation is, *cæteris paribus*, more favourable for union by the first intention, during our hot seasons, than in the cold weather of winter. This I have noticed in an abundance of instances, and have been in the habit of ascribing it to the lesser degree of inflammation that follows operations and injuries in the summer months.

Aneurisms are almost unknown in Egypt. Dr. P. informed me, that, during a number of years of extensive private practice and hospital practice he had had only one case requiring an operation. It was a ligature upon the brachial artery. I presented him with a set of the *American instruments*, for conveying the ligature beneath the artery, and showed him the manner of using them; with which beautiful, simple and ingenious inventions, he assured me he would make an application of the ligature in the first case which came under his care.

Since visiting a number of oriental cities, it is no longer surprising to me that they should, from time to time, be scourged with typhoid forms of dis-

case, and particularly, the appalling and terrific forms of it, denominated the peste or plague. As long as their cities remain, and their habits continue, it must be, from time to time, the companion of the Mussulman. The features and appearance of this disease, like the Asiatic cholera, are frightful indeed, from the overwhelming operations of the contagion, infection or poison that produces it upon the nervous system. It certainly resembles the effect which some of the more deadly vegetable and animal poisons produce upon animal life. From the mild vegetable miasm that produces intermittent and remittent fevers, there is a variety of causes, vegetable and animal, differing in intensity and violence, until we arrive at the most concentrated of all, which is the *materies morbi* of plague itself.

From the facts which I collected at Cairo, Alexandria, Smyrna and Constantinople, in each of which places the disease existed, and in the first of which I saw a number of cases, my belief is, that it is not contagious, but infectious and atmospheric. Dr. Bulard, the distinguished and intrepid French physician, whom I met in the East, and with whom I returned to Europe, has been several years immersed in the plague, visiting those cities in which it prevailed, for the purpose of investigating its nature, and the causes that produce and influence it. As we performed our quarantine together at Orsova, I had an opportunity of collecting many curious facts in relation to the disease, and at the same time becoming acquainted with many of his views and opinions.

He does not believe the disease communicable from one person to another in the pure air of the country; they must be, as he says, in a pestiferous atmosphere. In three instances, in which the clothes from the dead body were worn by three individuals, two took the disease, but the experiment was made in an impure atmosphere. He thinks it would not be communicated in this way, in a pure air. It cannot be transmitted by inoculation with the blood from patients labouring under the disease. He informed me that he had made more than one hundred trials with the blood, at different stages of the complaint. He even doubted that inoculation with the matter from a charbon or inguinal bubo, would produce the disease out of a pestiferous focus.

Doctor Pruner of Cairo informed me, that he never knew an instance of plague to follow an autopsy, among the pupils of the hospital, and that they made post mortem examinations of plague subjects, as freely as those who die from other diseases. Dr. ——— of Alexandria, stated to us, that he sent the clothes and mattress, of a person who had died of plague, to London, and that a quantity of the discharge from the charbons and buboes, was mingled with them, and cotton was imbued with it purposely. It arrived safe, was taken home, but no disease communicated by it. His confidence in the non-contagiousness of plague was so great, that he was induced to make this bold and unjustifiable experiment.

In the astonishing number of autopsies, which Dr. Bulard made in Egypt, Asia Minor and Constantinople, amounting to upwards of six hundred, he found the morbid appearances very varied. The brain, the stomach, intestines, liver and spleen, were the organs generally either congested or inflamed. One of these organs was sure to be found in the above mentioned state, if the patient survived the initiatory stage, or collapse of the whole system which ushered in the disease. Many perish in this stage. Those who survive it, require a very guarded and cautious depletory treat-

ment, from a fear of the secondary collapse, which too frequently also is fatal.

As far as I could ascertain, there is no settled method of treatment among the practitioners of the East. All are very cautious in depletory means, and particularly venesection, yet leeching and cupping may be and are resorted to. Another will say, that quinine in large quantities, from the commencement of the attack, is the only chance the patient has, in from five to ten grain doses, several times a day, and continued through the stage of excitement.

From the great discrepancy which I found to exist in the treatment of the peste, and from what I saw for myself, it should, in my opinion, be treated upon the same principles as an aggravated form of malignant typhus. Always bearing in mind the necessity of watching very closely for the unexpected collapse, which suddenly and fatally steal upon us.

REVIEWS.

ARTICLE XI. *Outlines of the Institutes of Medicine: founded on the Philosophy of the Human Economy, in Health, and in Disease.* In Three Parts. Should we build facts upon facts until our pile reached the heavens, they would tumble to pieces unless they were cemented by principles.—*Rush.* By JOSEPH A. GALLUP, M. D., 2 vols. Boston: Otis, Broaders, & Company, 1839. pp. 416 and 460, 8vo.

DR. GALLUP has been long known as an author, and in the north-eastern section of our country, as a medical teacher. In 1815, he published a volume of more than four hundred pages, entitled, "*Sketches of Epidemic Diseases in the state of Vermont.*" For many years he has been a lecturer on different branches of medical science in more than one of the Vermont schools; and as "more than seven septenaries of his life," as he tells us, have been spent in the active practice and the diligent study of his art, his name is far from being an unknown or a new one in the annals of American medical literature. He now presents himself to the public with two additional volumes, bearing the old, but to us somewhat indefinite, title of the *Institutes of Medicine*, embracing, we have a right to presume, the final conclusions, the deliberate and digested results of a long and busy life. As medical journalists, we cannot, of course, pass by an original work of such pretensions; and even if our inclinations might prompt us in the present instance to be silent, there is resting upon us a high duty to the profession, which we do not feel ourselves at liberty to disregard. This duty it is our intention now to discharge, fully, faithfully, honestly, in strict justice to Dr. Gallup, and in like strict justice to the profession, so far as upright purposes and such ability as has been vouchsafed us shall enable us to do it. Dr. Gallup's work claims, indirectly at least, to be a natural *system of medicine*; in it he says, the fundamental principles of the science are at stake, and he makes his appeal, boldly and frankly, to the "honest sentiment of the community of medicine," for approval or disapproval of his labour. This is fair, and as one member of that community, we shall take him at his word. As he himself says, "whilst we respect characters, we must be free with principles," and in the animadversions which we shall feel called upon to make on many of the doctrines of his book, we shall aim to be guided by a single eye to truth, to impartial judgment, and to the interests of our science. We have no other purposes to answer, than the attainment of these ends.

The *Outlines of the Institutes of Medicine* are arranged in three great divisions—to wit: those of physiology, pathology, and therapeutics. The subject of physiology occupies 226 pages, that of pathology is extended over 264 pages, and 273 pages are devoted to the division of

therapeutics. Nearly one hundred pages of vol. 2d are appropriated to a new system of nosography.

We have but little to say, generally, of our author's physiology, except that we are wholly unable to discover the right of this department to a prominent place, or indeed to any separate place in the *Institutes of Medicine*, as they are called. These, says Dr. Gallup, may be defined as "that science, which embraces a knowledge of diseases and their remedies." This definition makes the *Institutes of Medicine* synonymous with *practical medicine*, and with the *theory and practice of medicine*. If these several terms are not absolute synonyma, then we suppose, that by the former, as contra-distinguished from the latter, must be meant the general principles of pathology and therapeutics, in the abstract, or the philosophy of pathology and therapeutics, and not the knowledge of individual diseases and their treatment. If this is the true supposition, our own opinion of the legitimacy of such a distinction and of the grounds upon which it rests will become apparent in the course of our remarks. In either case, we still fail to see the alleged relationship. Certainly a knowledge of physiology is necessary to a full knowledge of diseases and of their remedies, but no more so than is a knowledge of anatomy or of *materia medica*. They are all co-ordinate and independent branches of the same science, mutually and intimately related each to each, and each to all, but not subordinated in regular gradation one to another. Dr. Gallup's 226 pages are made up, for the most part, of the simplest elementary facts of physiology, strictly so called, and of physiological or general anatomy, with but little merit either of arrangement or exposition. Such inaccuracies as calling *fibrine*, effused from inflamed serous surfaces, a *dense serosity*, of stating the results of the experimental physiologists in relation to the functions of the different parts of the brain as positive and absolute, we have no wish to single out for special remark. We cannot, however, dismiss this division of the *outlines* without taking a fuller notice of one of its doctrines: indeed, should we do so, our author himself might justly complain of us, since the doctrine to which we allude is evidently one of his very particular favourites. It has reference to nothing less important than the independent and absolute nature, origin and operation of the principle of life; that peculiar and mysterious power, always, heretofore supposed to be associated during this state of existence with organic matter, which has received so many names, and which has been the subject of so much vague speculation and conjecture. Before plunging into the vast inane of the question, "*What is life?*" the Dr. seems to have had some slight misgivings—not as to the ability of the air, into which from his philosophical heights he was about to launch—to uphold his waxen wings, but as to the opinion of his fellow mortals, standing on the solid ground below, of the safety and sanity of the enterprise on which he was about to enter. "It appears," he says, "that philosophers are required to have every thesis guarded, and supported by demonstrations drawn from tangible experiments, and so conclusive as to compel assent; that nothing can be taken on trust, or by analogical induction. These lines have of late been drawn so straight as to impede investigation on subjects, which in their nature cannot admit of mathematical or chemical demonstration. However, it may be noticed, that undeniable facts may be well shown by a series of circumstantial and analogical indications, which may compel the assent of the mind as certainly as direct

testimony, and so it is now held and practised in courts of judicature." But Dr. Gallup is not a man to have his investigations impeded by these straight lines of this modern logic; his is not a genius to be cramped in a pestle and mortar, and the fruits of this high soaring are the doctrines which we proceed to state.

The vital principle, or as Dr. Gallup calls it, the *vital entity*, is not an "*evanescent nihilty*," the result of organization, or its inseparable dependent, but an exquisitely subtle essence, gas, aura, or spirit, existing by itself, co-eval and co-extensive with the existence of matter, and constituting, when attached to matter, manifest, organic life. 'This principle pervades universal nature, and is ever ready and on the look out for an opportunity to attach itself to "certain molecular forms of matter," by which union it is enabled to enjoy and to manifest its peculiar properties and phenomena, or in other words *to live*. "The myriads of myriads of ephemeral insects that darken the air, or of reptiles which separate the foot of man from the surface of the earth, all springing into life at the same time, and simultaneously giving up the ghost and becoming extinct," cannot be accounted for, we are told, on the supposition of a seminal or a sexual origin. 'They are the result of the coalescence of this vital aura with the molecular forms of matter, the products, in short, of what has been called spontaneous generation. As illustrations of the action of this principle we are referred to the proofs furnished by the fossil osteology of some of the early geological formations, of the former existence of animated tribes which have long been extinct, and of the subsequent creation of others, "so far as can be discovered," says Dr. Gallup, "without a direct seminal origin." We are further referred to Genesis for evidence of the reality of this "universal generant influence." The doctrine is gravely argued from the phraseology of the Mosaic account of the creation, and thus this sublime and mysterious act of Jehovah himself is seriously attributed to the agency of a fecundating principle, or germinating aura. We have no intention of so far presuming upon the patience and good nature of our readers as to reply to these worse than ridiculous fancies. It is quite enough for us to state them. They have but one parallel, that we know of among modern works of science, and this is to be found in Mr. Kirby's Bridgewater treatise, a book, the preliminary chapters of which are more crowded with concentrated folly and sublimated nonsense, than any thing else of the present century, that has come under our observation. Our author could hardly have been aware of the existence of Mr. Kirby's speculations. He could not have been so unkind as to have passed them by without any tokens of recognition. Mr. Kirby is of opinion, that all parasitic animals infesting the human body—in vulgar phrase, lice—have been created at different times, since the fall, in order to punish and torment men for their sins. Le Clerc and Bonnet, it seems, thought it more probable, that all these worms existed in Adam before the transgression, under the form of eggs, which did not hatch till after that event. How many difficulties, which must have perplexed the mind of the learned British naturalist, philosopher and divine, would have been removed, had he only been aware of the existence and the properties of the "universal generant influence, or germinating aura?" There is one other attribute of this vital entity, which we have not yet spoken of, and which, trusting only to our *à priori* reasoning, we should hardly have looked for. It seems to be a fountain sending forth bitter as well as sweet waters, a vine

bringing forth thistles as well as grapes, a tree of death as well as of life. Dr. Gallup suggests, that epidemic constitutions of the atmosphere may consist simply in an undue and extraordinary concentration and accumulation of this subtilized aura, and as a sort of support to this suggestion, we are told, that attacks of severe disease are often preceded by a state of high and refined health in the individual, and that the prevalence of the plague is attended with increased activity of the sexual appetite!

We are sorry to be under the necessity of convicting Dr. Gallup of plagiarism in this last matter. We would not willingly pluck so green a leaf as this, from his philosophic garland; but the heart-hardening obligations of justice and criticism, leave us no alternative, and we must proceed in our painful duty. It is well known that, during the last seven or eight years of the eighteenth century, the yellow fever prevailed very extensively and fatally in most of the large cities along our Atlantic coast, and that a great deal was written in relation to its causes. Among other works upon this subject, was one published in New York, in 1798, entitled a "*Physical Inquiry into the Origin and Causes of the Pestilential Fever.*" The author thinks that the ancient doctrine of the four elements is right, as far as it goes, but that two others ought to be added. One of these is electrical fire, and the other is a *universal agent*, which he calls *mother*. This *mother*, he says, is the great agent of vegetable and animal life. He says that it differs essentially from air; that its native region is the surface of the earth; and that it does not descend deep into the earth, but by compulsion, although at times it is forced very far downwards; but that, even if it should be drawn to the centre of gravity, or to the bottom of the ocean, it will eventually make its escape, and rise to its natural station upon the surface again. This *mother*, he adds, commonly rises pure, but it sometimes gets contaminated by combining with other things, especially during the putrefactive process, while the hot season prevails. The *mother*, thus vitiated and venomous, rises up, defiling the earth and water through which it passes, and by its action on the human system, occasions pestilential fevers. The identity of doctrine here is manifest, and our author's claims to the distinction of discovery must be wholly abandoned, unless the result of another Leibnitzo-Newtonian controversy should show that the glory really belonged to both, both having arrived at the same great result independent of each other.

Leaving the physiological portion of the book, we at length arrive at more inviting regions; and we are ushered into the province of pathology with a flourish of trumpets of no equivocal or uncertain sound.

"In the outset," says Dr. G. "we indignantly repel the trite, sarcastic innuendoes, which have so often uncourtously been cast by many; by direct allusions to theorems advanced, having been formed from lamp-light cogitations in the closet; and the bending of facts and analogies to support a favourite hypothesis. We have been inducted by another, and more hardy routine of study. And, from the full conviction of the insufficiency of every generalization hitherto attempted, have re-explored the chartless empire of medicine; and wishing to save it from the quicksands of empiricism, have made many comparisons in the open air, in the dissecting room, and at 'the bed-side of the sick.' Having a few incontrovertible data, as polar stars in view, we have *endeavoured* to form inductions, which will not readily be dissipated by the fire of experiment. If the arrangement is new, it is supported by facts not altogether novel.

That this is no sanfaronade, is immediately manifest on turning the leaf

which contains it, for directly on its opposite and corresponding surface, we have the annunciation in three pregnant lines, of the great fundamental principle of pathology, so long sought, and so late discovered—a principle which is to be to the physician what the Newtonian law of gravitation is to the astronomer. The two pages stand in beautiful relation to each other; the latter fulfilling all the high promise of the former—"fit body to fit head." The following is our author's statement of the new doctrine, which is to lead the bewildered pathologist from out of the intricate and labyrinthian paths in which he has so long and so blindly wandered—baffled and sore perplexed—up into the light and sunshine of the perfect day.

"The excellency of Sir I. Newton's improvements in physics, does not consist in having discovered the principle of attraction inherent in inert matter, but in having shown that attraction *acts directly in proportion to the mass of matter, and inversely as the distances.* Is it not possible to offer a clew, which may lead to an unfolding of the laws of organic life upon an axiom almost equally simple in character and construction, and which may serve as a guide to the pathologist, through the intricacies of his searches in relation to disease? *The vital force responds directly in proportion to the integrity of the organization, and is equivalent to the compatible or incompatible range of stimulations applied.*"

We hope that no pathologist will hereafter suffer himself to be troubled with foolish and unreasonable doubts in relation to any of the questions which he is called upon to answer. The *open sesame* is here put into his hands, and it is his own fault if he does not unlock, with its magic power, the doors which have hitherto barred him out from that region into which he may now enter, to clear up the mysteries of disease, and to unfold the laws of organic life. The great elementary pathological axiom is at length established; the formula, by the application of which, all the manifold, confused and ever shifting phenomena of disease shall arrange themselves in harmonious order, and refer themselves with quick and infallible certainty to their simple and ultimate causes is finally discovered, and it is this: "*The vital force responds directly in proportion to the integrity of the organization, and is equivalent to the compatible or incompatible range of stimulations applied.*"

Like a faithful pastor, who avails himself of any striking or unusual visitation of Providence, to impress upon the hearts of his people, the truths and obligations of his faith, we take this occasion to enforce upon our readers, the immense practical value of great pathological principles like that just stated. It must be borne in mind, that Dr. Gallup's work is "founded on the philosophy of the human economy, in health and in disease." He rests his rules of practice on his doctrines of morbid action. His therapeutics is deduced from his pathology. He is a rationalist and no empiric. Now who can fail to see how naturally the only true method of treating—not diseases, but disease and all disease, flows from the above pathological axiom! Who can doubt after this is once clearly and fully comprehended, whether Dr. Gallup's treatment of typhoid fever, or Dr. Miner's, is right? Who can hesitate any longer between quinine and blood-letting in erysipelas? Of what use are all these statistics, and this irksome, drudging, endless study of positive results, this counting and weighing of cases, when the whole matter can be thus packed into a nutshell? How much easier it is to be governed by these rational principles, than it is to attempt to follow the uncertain and contradictory guidances of

experience! Henceforth, then, -if a physician who may be visited with such misgivings as have heretofore at times beset even the best of us, should have any doubts as to the safest management of his patient with rheumatism, or typhus, or phthisis, let him turn away from the fallacies of observation, to that oracle of medical science which has been the text of this commentary, and he shall doubt no longer; his knowledge shall be clear, absolute and complete.

The pathological division of the work is arranged under three separate heads. These are *pathology* strictly so called, *etiology* and *semiotice*. The first subdivision contains eleven sections, some few of which, in the prosecution of our design, we now proceed to notice. The second section of this subdivision, and the fourteenth of the book, has for its title "*What is Disease?*" a question that has answered the excellent and profitable purpose of tasking and baffling the ingenuity of medical systematists, from the time of father Galen, or earlier, down to that of Dr. Gallup. To whom, among the countless multitudes who have tried their wits at the verbal defining of a subject, which, for all practical ends every body understands, belongs the palm of victory and success, we shall not undertake to determine. That our author is at least as happy in the framing of a definition as he is in the conception and statement of a principle is abundantly shown in the present instance. The following are his words:—"With respect to a short definition of disease generally, or the morbid habit, we might say that it consists in a manifestation of a series of phenomena, indicative of the repulsive powers of the instinctive energies of the living system." This is certainly very clear.

The four sections, from the sixteenth to the nineteenth, inclusive, we shall pass over. One of the leading objects of the pages occupied by these sections, is to establish the doctrine of the *nosodynamic* character, as Dr. Gallup calls it, of disease. He regards all disease as essentially *sthenic* in its nature.

The twentieth section has this question for its caption:—"Is disease produced by extensive constitutional changes, and thence forming local concentrations; or does it originate at some tissual point, and from thence radiate over the entire organization?" The doctrines which it is the purpose of this section to establish, may be thus briefly stated. All disease is primarily general. Local affections are a result, and not the original cause of the general excitement. The former depend upon the latter: the latter does not depend upon the former. The local lesion, in all cases, acute and chronic, is only a concentration of the general *nosodynamic* force, as Dr. Gallup calls the constitutional disturbance. This *nosodynamic* force cannot act for any considerable time, without being accumulated upon some focal point, and after it has thus fallen upon some organ, or tissue, then there is a reflex or reverberating action of greater or less intensity, according to circumstances. The radiations of local injuries or irritations over the system, are transient in duration, and trifling in effect, unless a morbid habit exists at the time, or directly supervenes; and in this event, they become the foci of the general diseased state. The capital leading points of Dr. Gallup's system of pathology, are then these two;—the *sthenic* character of all disease, and the secondariness or dependence upon a general morbid habit of all local affections.

We have no wish to visit these doctrines with indiscriminating censure. The chief objection to them consists in their claims to absolute and univer-

sal application. Dr. G. has here fallen into the common error of those who endeavour to establish any other principles or axioms in medical science, than such as are the natural, necessary, inevitable expression of facts, correctly estimated and analyzed;—that of premature and gratuitous generalization. As a positive generalization or law, as a universal fact, the foregoing doctrines are false; at any rate their truth is not demonstrated. But that as pathological views they are true to a certain extent, in relation to many morbid conditions, there is good reason for believing. That they are true to a much greater extent than is now generally admitted, we certainly shall not deny. We do not think that this is a case where positive and dogmatical assertion, either one way or the other, is allowed by the spirit of a true philosophy. But we are ready to admit, that the same philosophy may justify us in the cautious formation of mere opinions. And we think that the doctrine of the constant and essential locality of disease is by far too generally adopted. This is one of the fruits of the Broussaisian system. As a natural result, the condition of the general habit in disease has been, we think too much disregarded. In our exclusive thoughts of the local and more easily appreciable lesion, we have forgotten the constitution itself. In our search for the tubercular deposit, and in our study of its phenomena, we have too much overlooked the depraved condition of which the former may have been only the consequence. It is in this respect, especially, that the English practice seems to us superior to the French. In this country the doctrines of Abernethy have been too much superseded by those of Broussais. Dr. Gallup's views in relation to phthisis appear to us in this respect very just. He considers the general state of the system, or the morbid habit as the primary and seminal element in that complex pathological condition constituting the disease.

Lest some of the above admissions should seem to any of our readers to be inconsistent with the strong and earnest language that we have heretofore made use of in deprecating all departure from the study of any thing but the actual phenomena of disease, we will add that we go no further than a rigorous and philosophical interpretation of all the phenomena will safely bear us. And even here, we state the case only as a reasonable interpretation of a series of facts, not as a fact itself—a probably correct induction, not a necessary and demonstrated result. To this kind of reasoning we have no objection. In many instances we can hardly avoid indulging in it. *How is this?* and *why is this?* are questions that will intrude themselves at times into our presence, and wait there to be answered. For instance, in phthisis, to which allusion has just been made, the first, essential, legitimate objects of investigation are its phenomena, its natural history—its hygiene and its therapeutics. Its causes, its signs, the state of the organs, its prevention, its cure—these are the leading subjects of our research, and they are to be ascertained, not from the physiology of the body, not from any real or assumed knowledge of the intimate properties and processes of the ultimate organization, but from the simple, vigilant, long-continued study of actual appearances. Then there are certain results that are inevitable, that flow, naturally, spontaneously, from the data so obtained, and about which there will be no more controversy or difference of opinion, than there is about the ascertained properties of inert matter. Such are the influence of climate, season, locality, age, sex, occupation; the symptoms, the lesions, the mortality, the effects of medicine and regimen, and so on. All this constitutes the natural his-

tory of the disease, and for the most part, and in relation to most diseases, our self complacent boasting to the contrary notwithstanding, it is yet very incomplete. After this is ascertained and settled, or during the process of its investigation, we may, if we choose, still in the spirit of a sound philosophy, admit other inquiries, such as these;—*what is the nature of this morbid habit? what is the nature of this local lesion? what are their mutual relations? which is cause, and which is effect?* But let it be ever remembered, that these matters are always to be kept in subordination to the first. They are to be deduced as more or less probable, only, from the first and the only positive results. They are explanations of facts, not facts. They are interpretations of appearances or phenomena, not themselves appearances or phenomena. They are legitimate *hypotheses*, but they are not *laws*.

Above all things, let us understand that the practical rules which are to guide our conduct in hygiene, diagnosis, prognosis and therapeutics are to be drawn exclusively from the former class of facts, never from the latter interpretations and philosophizings. In the treatment of phthisis, we are to be governed by the lessons of experience and not by our opinion of the sthenic or asthenic, the local or constitutional character of the disease. In the trial of new or modified processes of hygiene and therapeutics, we may be influenced by these interpretations and opinions, if they have been carefully and rigorously deduced, but they can do no more than to furnish us with hints and suggestions. They give us no positive knowledge. Broussais and Gallup regard phthisis as an inflammatory affection. One of them looks upon it as a local, the other as essentially a general disease. Louis does not believe it to be inflammatory in its nature; at least he denies that there is any satisfactory evidence that it is so. Dr. Rush, Tully, Miner, and others call it a disease of debility, and if the popular doctrine, that our therapeutics must be *rational*, as the phrase goes, that is, that it must be deduced from our pathology, be correct, and if each of these disciples of so many different schools, if each of these contradictory translators and interpreters of the same language, is consistent in his conduct, he must treat the disease according to his own views of its nature, and in no way else. Broussais must leech and blister the chest, Gallup must bleed from the arm, while Rush, Tully and Miner must give bark, wine and iron. Dr. Gallup indeed, while speaking of the importance of forming correct opinions about the constitutional character of disease, expressly declares, in the work before us, that “those who are vascillating in opinion will always be the agents of mutable and inefficient treatment; *whilst those who embrace wrong theorems will use improper remedies.*” But after all, exactly how far Dr. Gallup’s treatment is really based upon his theorems it is somewhat difficult to say; and the same thing is true of the whole class to which he belongs. Dr. Miner, who may be considered, in connexion with Dr. Tully, the leader of a medical sect directly opposed to that of Dr. Gallup, in almost every point of doctrine, and of practice, is evidently enough, more or less governed in his therapeutics by his notions of the nature of disease. A comparison of the opinions and practice of these rival teachers would constitute a curious chapter in our medical history, and furnish, also, abundant and most apposite illustrations of the subjects which we are now considering. Both, for instance, boldly assert the curability, in their hands, of phthisis. Dr. Gallup says the disease is inflammatory, sthenic, *nosodynamic*, and that it can be removed only by general bloodletting, emetics, external warmth, and so on, with this essen-

tial condition, that all narcotics, and opium, especially, are withheld. Dr. Miner says that calomel, opium and sanguinaria, with a suitable course of mineral tonics are almost specific in its cure. In the hands of Dr. Gallup, all our diseases are sthenic and are to be cured only by active, antiphlogistic treatment. In the hands of his rival, they are all asthenic, and tonics, stimulants and narcotics, with a scrupulous avoidance of the lancet, and of all debilitants and refrigerants constitute the only true or safe method of management. Dr. Gallup's heroics are bloodletting, emetics and warmth. Dr. Miner's are calomel, opium, alcohol, capsicum, ammonia, arsenic, phosphorus and blood root. Calomel and opium, says Dr. Miner, in acute febrile diseases, are of greater service than all the other articles of the *Materia Medica*. Both these articles, says Dr. Gallup, have been the occasion of more injury than benefit. Bleeding and antimony are in the hands of Dr. Gallup universal and all-powerful means of salvation to his patients. "The lancet," says his rival, is a minute instrument of mighty mischief, a weapon which annually slays more than the sword. "Antimony alone," he continues "does more injury than all the efficient exciting and supporting agents of the *Materia Medica*. The king of Great Britain, without doubt, loses every year more subjects by these means, than the battle and campaign of Waterloo cost him, with all their glories." Both Dr. G. and Dr. M. appeal it is true, to the results of their treatment in proof of its efficacy, and we are ready to admit what we really believe, that the true grounds of their confidence in their respective modes of management are to be found, more than they themselves are aware of, in their own experience. But, nevertheless, we can have no hesitation in saying that their strong blind faith in exclusive and hypothetical systems of medical philosophy has infused unsoundness and uncertainty into the only true sources of all therapeutics. Even the great and sagacious Sydenham, although he reversed the order of this vicious mode of reasoning, and deduced his theory of disease from the observed effects of his methods of management, was evidently influenced in his practice by his pathological speculations. His notions of morbid action, after having been derived, in part at least, from the apparent effects of remedies, reacted upon his therapeutics; they dimmed the clearness of his perceptions, they warped his judgment, and they acted unfavourably upon his practice.

Is it not clear, that in all these cases, that in all like cases, the whole process of procedure is wrong? That such is our conviction needs now hardly to be said. We have expressed this conviction at length, here, because Dr. Gallup's book presents one of the most striking examples, which the last hundred years have given us, of the philosophy and views which we have been endeavouring to controvert. We have expressed our convictions earnestly because we think them not only true and sound in themselves, but of great practical importance. If the Sydenhams, the Gallups, the Tullys, the Miners, if the oracles and teachers in our temple are not safe from the bad effects of their own false philosophies, how can it be expected, that the great body of us, who are wont to look to them and to their compeers for light, instruction and guidance, shall escape from the same malign and disastrous influences?

We resume our analysis, and leaving the remaining three sections of the subdivision of pathology, we come to that of etiology, to which one hundred pages are devoted. This subdivision, taken as a whole, is written, we think, with more straight forward sense and ability, than the preceding portions of the volume, although it is far enough from being exempt from

the kind of faults of which we have already spoken so freely. Many of our author's views of the causes of disease are such as are generally received. Others are somewhat peculiar to himself. In his twentieth section, of more than twenty pages, he attempts to disprove the existence of any thing like local miasmata or atmospheric contaminations, as causes of disease. We have failed, however, to discover sufficient ground, either in the author's facts or arguments, for his denial of the existence of a deleterious principle, acting within circumscribed limits, much as the more general cause or principle, to which the term epidemic is applied, acts over more extensive and wide spread regions. We do not see, that any very well defined or cardinal difference has yet been shown to exist between these two causes, the local miasmatic, and the more general epidemic. Dr. G. thinks that many of the effects, which have been commonly attributed to the decomposition of animal and vegetable matter, and to malaria, depend solely upon sensible, meteorological influences. This is a fair subject of discussion, but one in which it is not our intention now to engage. Dr. G. admits the existence of a general, epidemic constitution of the air, or as he calls it, a general atmospheric pestilent afflatus, and the intimation is here again thrown out, that this invisible and mysterious agent of disease and death, this inscrutable and terrific UNKNOWN is only an excess of that all pervading aura or entity of which we have before heard. Our author has modified his views on this subject since the publication of his work on epidemic diseases in 1816. He then referred this pestilent afflatus to some electro-planetary operations, the nature of which is a good deal less intelligible to ourselves, than he would then have had us suppose it was to him. The electrical fluid, he then thought, "was the *vinculum*, or connecting medium of the fragments of universal nature, by whose pre-eminent powers of attraction and repulsion, the planets were kept in their orbits, and performed their revolutions, and by which even the comets were recalled from their distant wanderings, to revisit the sun, and to become visible to the inhabitants of our earth." This strange fluid, thus unceremoniously, with the doctor's aid, usurping the sceptre and dominion of gravitation, by the help and co-operation of "changes depending on the conjunction and opposition of the planets," kindled up, according to him, the pestilent afflatus. Such was the doctrine of 1815:—Alas! that these systems of indigenous philosophy should be so unstable and evanescent! The chain with which our Dr. Webster essayed to bind together plagues, and pestilences, and earthquakes and comets and volcanoes, proved to be of no adamantine materials. Long ago, it snapped asunder, and all the multifarious and appalling horrors, all the gorgons and hydras and chimeras dire, which he had attempted to fasten to it, in most unnatural and monstrous association, flew off again, each to its own region, to render allegiance to its own sovereign and independent laws. And then the learned and many titled Dr. Mitchell's doctrine of *SERREN*, built up, as he fondly imagined, on the solid basis of ancient lore and modern science, graced with the metaphorical drapery; and embalmed in the artificial amber of Darwinian verse; that also is gone, and now we find this electro-astrologic theory of Dr. Gallup's, abandoned and left to its early fate, even by its own author. *Sic transit, etc.*

Semeioticæ, the last subdivision of the pathological portion of the work occupies the first seventy pages of the second volume. When we say that it treats of the phenomena of disease, and not of separate diseases, of the morbid habit and not of any individual affection, we have said enough to show how entirely destitute it must be of any practical value. It is not

exactly correct, even, to say that it treats of the *phenomena* of disease. It treats rather of the supposed philosophy or *rationale* of these phenomena, and so far, is less useful, than it would have been, had it been confined to a strict exposition of some of the generalities of morbid manifestations. Instead of making any analysis or commentaries, we will copy the titles of the sub-sections of the first section, in the order in which they stand, and also a page or two of the text. The titles are as follows; *Preliminary remarks:—Harmonies existing in disease:—Anomalies of the phenomena:—Contingent phenomena:—Three series of phenomena:—Reflections on the first series—predisposition:—Shrivelled aspect, paleness and faintness:—Chills and rigors:—Paroxysms, and their periodical return:—Cold sweats:—Diarrhœa serosa:—Diabetes simplex:—Inordinate flow of bile:—Cardiac and arterial action:—Primary coma.*

Under the last title, Dr. G. says, "Primary coma arises from any cause that suddenly occasions an exhaustion of vital force, by stimulation; or from accumulations of blood in the venous radicles producing congestions in the cerebrum, in which event the nervous force of the intellectual organs is partially intercepted for a time. The same circumstances occurring in the cerebellum occasion lassitude and paralysis; yet, if they should be of an irritating kind, convulsions might attend. Even congestions in the cerebral tissues may induce the same results, when they are sufficient to produce a perpendicular pressure on the cerebellum."

In the following extract we have Dr. G's views of the causes and nature of the difference between the synchoid and the typhoid diathesis. We hope, that in justice to themselves and to the author, our readers will study this extract as faithfully as we ourselves have done, that they will comprehend it as clearly, and that they will gather from it those rich lessons of practical wisdom, which will enable them readily to distinguish between a sthenic and an asthenic habit, and so to adapt with more accuracy and certainty their course of treatment to the case before them.

"In prosecuting the inquiry," he says, "we shall need to be reminded of certain pathological theses, which are well established, and we shall, therefore, not stop to prove them. One is, that every inordinate impression on the tissues, if even through the mind, which is capable of altering the functions, is directly followed by a retrocession of fluids from the surface to the central organs and tissues. It is attended with anæmia externally, and hyperæmia internally. This will hold good from syncope up to apoplexy. Although the period may sometimes be very short, between the impression and the return of circulation in quick responding habits, yet the change has existed in some degree.

"The principal physiological force existing, which must give energy to the vascular tissues enabling them to restore the equilibrium to the surface, must be the visceral ganglia and their nerves, since they accompany the arteries into their dermoid capillaries.

"Let us now recall what has been amply proved, that early in every severe disease the internal capillary vessels are fully distended, and engorged, whilst anæmia exists on the surface. And, also, the physiological fact of the ganglia, and their plexuses being vascular, together with the pathological fact of these ganglia being found engorged in the numerous examinations of fatal typhoid cases, and the proposition appears to be established, that the derangements have produced an inability in the capillary circulations, and this is the immediate cause of the typhoid state. A similar derangement in the encephalon produces coma, paralysis, and perhaps apoplexy, attended with a failure of functions.

We have now found certain derangements in the circulations, sufficient to

account for the phenomena presented, and the circumstances which produce these derangements have heretofore been amply discussed.

"We will, however, concede, that what has been advanced may be common, in greater or less degree, to both the diatheses; and the inquiry must still be extended, viz. What makes the difference?

"We assume it as a fact, that those cases which afford the clearest manifestations of a typhoid diathesis early show the most of an anæmic state of the surface; and the inference must be, that these cases have the greatest burden of internal hyperæmia also; and this is in conformity to autoptical inspections.

"We improve, also, another fact, that the causes are more impressive under some circumstances, than others; and, also, that they make greater impressions on some less resisting subjects, than on others.

"What has been advanced may not only be considered as facts, but as universally so. With this assurance, we will introduce another entitled to equal credit; which is, the lively susceptibility of some temperaments enables the tissues to respond more readily, and energetically, than others to every injury offered them; and in disease severe stimulations have been presented. These early responding actions restore circulation in some degree, both arterial and venous, if not perfectly; and in sufficient season to save the paresis of the ganglia, which must take place, if the enthrallments at the attack are continued. The circulation will now be more free and intense, in proportion to the severity of the impressions, and vascular force of individual idiosyncrasy, if all other things are equal.

"It is supposed this state of things may take place spontaneously, and without the assistance of art, which is often the fact and most generally so. The pathological processes now go on exhibiting that train of phenomena, which indicates the condition called the *synchoïd diathesis*; viz. heat, pain, redness, thirst, hard, and often throbbing pulse, capillary circulation free, wakefulness, with liability to delirium, fixed location with pain in some organ or tissue, blood on venæsection quite florid, having a fibrinous crust, and cupped.

"In analyzing the other limb of our subject, we merely need to make the relative inferences from the principles advanced. The blood is not early restored to the surface, either by nature or art, it is not aerated in the lungs, nor is venous absorption excited sufficiently. The ganglial nervous force, including the internal respiratory, is so far paralysed, and the tissues held in such rigid duration, that the recuperative powers of the economy cannot be excited to afford seasonable aid; for, the primitive or first grade of vital energy of tissues holds the nervous force in restraint by its acquired, or nosodynamic influence. It may be held until all functional action ceases; but this is supposing an extreme case. It most commonly falls out, that the responding impulses are drawn forth, but in an imperfect manner, and this gives occasion to the typhoid state.

"The circulations, with all their relative associations, are but imperfectly performed, when compared with the expanded state of the *synchoïd diathesis*, with arterialized blood. The congestive condition of capillaries internally and externally still remains, at least in some considerable degree. The state of the ganglial, or as combined with other nervous force constituting the nutritive system, bears some resemblance to that of the encephalon in hemiplegia, half active, half dormant. The circulations which do appear are wont to be irregular; forcible in some organs, with heat; whilst in others coldness, and inactivity exists. The same disparity is seen in the nervous functions of external relation; plain specimens of ataxia. There exists uncommon prostration of muscular power, with sometimes spasmodic jerks; inability of mind, with coma-vigil; pulse feeble, and frequent, say one hundred and twenty or one hundred and forty in a minute; surface pale, or often dusky, sometimes with petechiæ, vibices, &c., appearing, also, in the internal tissues; blood dark, and mostly destitute of the fibrinous crust, and scarcely coagulating. This train indicates the *typhoid diathesis*, in its highest degree; yet, it often appears with far milder phenomena. p. 66—69.

After concluding what he has to say on semiotics our author presents us with a new system of nosography adapted to his own views of disease. We shall not trouble our readers with any accounts of this new entry for the barren prizes of nosological distinction. That it will soon follow in the multitudinous train of its defunct and departed predecessors, to an early and unlamented exit, it requires no great foresight or sagacity to predict. We shall pass by this portion of the work with the single remark, that even if those systems of classification, which have been most generally received, were less arbitrary and artificial in the principles of their construction, than they are, there would still exist an obstacle in the way of their correctness and completeness, wholly insurmountable. This obstacle consists in our yet imperfect knowledge of the diseases themselves, which are to be the subjects of nomenclature and arrangement. Almost every individual disease is to be characterised, and must be defined, not by some one peculiar element or phenomenon, but by the combination and succession of all its elements or phenomena. This requires, that as an indispensable preliminary to the location of a disease in any system of nosography, the whole natural history of the disease should first be ascertained. This knowledge, we have just said, is still incomplete, and at the time when the most celebrated and popular nosologies were framed, it was exceedingly so. What other, than a provisional and temporary position, could even Cullen and Good have assigned to those diseases which are now most thoroughly and fully known? What means had they for establishing the true places, and giving any thing like full definitions to apoplexy, pleurisy, pericarditis, phthisis, and our typhoid fever, before the researches of men now living had been made? We can have no sound and permanent method of arrangement any sooner or any further, than we ascertain the entire natural history of the several diseases, which are to be the subjects of classification.

The remainder of the work, amounting to 274 pages, is devoted to therapeutics. Diseases, as they are considered under this head, are arranged in four orders. In the first order are included synocha, phlegmasia dolens, rheumatism, and all the simple phlegmasiæ. This order, according to Dr. Gallup, is made up of the diseases of the *fibrous tissues*. In the second order, said to consist of diseases of the *mucous tissues*, are placed synochus, catarrh and influenza, bastard peripneumony, phthisis, whooping cough, and hemorrhages from mucous membranes. Order third professes to embrace affections of the *serous tissues*, and the diseases enumerated under it are *typhoid fever*, and dropsical effusions. Diseases of a complex character, affecting *many tissues*, make up the fourth order. They consist of the malignant epidemics.

Dr. G. states, in another place, that the diathesis depends upon the *tissual* seat, as he calls it, of the morbid concentration. He says if the tissue upon which the weight of the morbid habit primarily and chiefly falls be the fibrous, that the diathesis will be of the pure synochal character; that if the tissue be the mucous, the diathesis will be mild synochoid; that if the tissue be the serous, the diathesis will be mild typhoid, and that if many tissues are implicated, the diathesis will be grave, malignant typhoid. The grounds of this generalization we must leave our readers to discover; they are not stated by the author and they are wholly unknown to ourselves.

We shall extract from this division of the work a few such portions as may possess interest and value in themselves, and serve, at the same time,

to exhibit to our readers the practical views of the author. We copy, in detail, his treatment of what he calls synocha, and we do this because it covers nearly the whole ground of his therapeutics. With some modifications it is adopted by Dr. Gallup in most of the diseases, which it has fallen to his lot to manage.

"If a patient is early visited, and before the repelling force has established vascular action on the surface, then this ought to be encouraged by caloric applied in some agreeable form. No method can be more useful than the warm bath at a temperature of about 98° or 100° of Fah., but this should be accommodated to the patient's feelings. This is often inconvenient and of slow preparation. Then let the patient's legs and arms be bathed in warm water; and if not sufficiently warmed, as he lies in bed apply mild steam of water, more or less, over the body, by processes well known. This is a preparatory process; but care should be taken not to carry it to a great extent, especially if sweat does not flow.

"If the sweat should be urged hard, and continued, there will be danger of the capillary arteries forcing the blood into the interstitial spaces, and producing lesions of circulation, occasioning petechiæ, or at any rate sudamina, and attended with worse effects in the nervous tissues.

"If the patient should be already hot, and skin dry before visited, then merely bathing the legs and arms in warm water will be sufficient. In either event, the first internal medicine except some mild aromatic infusions, will need to be for an adult, about a grain and a half or two grains of tartarized antimony; or about ten of the antimonial powder, or phosphate of antimony.

"The patient will be prepared for the next remedy in about an hour, after taking the antimony; and then, unless, peradventure, there should be a free sweat, and mitigation of pain, venesection should be practised. If this should be the case, the sweat should be continued, and observation made how far it may be relied on in affording relief. It is but seldom the sweats can be relied on, even in a mild state of disease without blood-letting, and this we will next consider.

"The previous measures have been directed, in order to produce as equal circulation as may be obtained at this period; but still there may be much inequality until venesection is resorted to. We now take blood with the intention of reducing, and even removing the nosodynamic state. We therefore say, this remedy is debilitating under all circumstances; and if it is sometimes followed by an increase of energy, it is because it relieves the organic impediments, and emancipates their inability of function.

"But, how much blood shall be taken in a severe case of synochal fever? Shall we measure it? If we intend to arrest the chief force of the disease, render it safe and manageable, or even palliate it at an after period, when it has not progressed beyond the bleeding point, the only measure we want, is an equivalent to the cardiac and vascular force. The rule must be to bleed to the point of relief; and this implies a prostration of the nosodynamic force; and in order to effect this, it is necessary, oftentimes to prostrate the physiological energies. The more early and effectual the bleedings are practised, the sooner the patient escapes the danger of the disease, and with the loss of the least blood in the aggregate.

"In order for this remedy to be the most effectual, let the patient remain in his warm bed, in a recumbent position; take from a vein in the arm, in a full stream, until the pulse falters, and the patient faints so far as to be unconscious of anything, or to deliquium animi. He will no doubt revive, for we never knew it otherwise. As the circulations resume their courses, by a convulsive effort of the recuperative powers, the nosodynamia is annihilated for the present, at least, and the exhalations, absorptions, and secretions assume their natural courses. Sweat flows, and now is the favourable time to continue it by mild and easy measures; that is, continuing moderate external warmth, and aromatic infusions, &c. Also, camphorated powders, or emulsion.

"This change is more certainly produced, if the patient should vomit at the

moment of resuscitation, and the small dose of antimony was given about an hour previous with a view in part, to this result.

"The tokens of the primary cause having been removed, are, an immediate flow of sweat from a previous dry surface; perhaps a change of countenance, and cessation of distress and pain, with a milder pulse. The intention now is, to prevent a return of the severity of the morbid condition; and for this purpose mild sweating should be continued for twenty-four hours, unless pain, heat, &c., should return. In this case sweating ceases. The morbid force has again accumulated. It now becomes necessary, to repeat the bleeding, but without intending to produce extreme faintness; but yet to the point of relief from pain, &c.

"The disease is liable to accumulate again and again, if it has obtained too much fixity at the beginning, and must be early met by efficient remedies. The bleedings should be repeated to the amount of relieving the urgency of the symptoms and rendering the case safe, but not now of suddenly arresting the disease. When bleedings are early practised, they are well borne afterwards to a great extent, if the necessity of the case should require them, and the bleeding point is not soon passed by.

"A case that has proceeded several days without bleeding, ought to be treated very much in the same manner in order to render it more safe; for no further time should be lost; provided, however, it has not proceeded beyond the bleeding point. This is often one of the most difficult questions to decide. When the question is rather doubtful in relation to copious bleeding, it should still be practised, but in a reserved manner. It is often so, that the case cannot do well without it, there being heat, pain, hard pulse, &c. still present. It may be proper to take some blood from the arm, and some by leeches, and observe whether it is well borne, and if so it may be repeated, and probably to the point of relief and safety.

"After fever has continued without bleeding, until there is evidently a failure of vital energy, as manifested by many phenomena, bleedings are liable to diminish the recuperative powers, so that the patient loses the chances of a favourable crisis; or the chances may be diminished by it. Yet, we have often known decided benefits resulting from late bleedings, and in cases supposed to be very doubtful.

"If the case should be attended with a determination to some of the organic viscera, with local inflammation, bleeding should early be extended, in quick succession, to the entire relief of pain. The repetitions should be practised as soon as pain returns after being mitigated, and without delay. Organic changes may take place within twenty-four hours after a re-accession of pain and inflammation, when it had appeared to be removed by previous means. So patients at a distance should be provided with accommodations of relief, during the absence of the medical adviser.

"Considerable observation is necessary to enable the physician to use bleeding to the greatest advantage. The patient should always be in a warm state when it is practised. In any disease whatever, either acute or chronic, the case will do better in the end as well as the time present, to take as much blood as is necessary, along with the other aids of remedies, to remove effectually the morbid habit, and without resorting to early tonics or stimulants. When this is accomplished, the healthy actions never fail to replenish the system with sound blood. It is the imperfect cures, or state of cachexy following disease imperfectly cured, that has given origin to the great complaints of Dr. Copland, and others, arising from the loss of blood. Neither are subjects, that lose much blood when necessary in disease, liable to suffer from plethora afterwards, if the previous disease be fully eradicated. The salutary actions soon establish their own healthy adjustments, when not interrupted.

"As soon as the patient has an opportunity after the first process of treatment, he should take a cathartic. According to circumstances, the first should be more or less drastic. If the principal location of pain should be in the head, it should be more drastic. Eight grains of calomel and rhubarb each may be suffi-

cient. If the bowels are in a state of paresis, the case may require more, and the intestines need to be the more acted on. But this is not commonly the fact in the affections under consideration. In ordinary cases the neutral salts will be the best; and cathartics ought not to be so freely employed as to vellicate, or produce excitation in the intestinal mucous tissue. In synochal fever they require to be repeated, usually about every other day.

"If the head remains affected with pain and heat after the bleedings, whilst the lower extremities incline to be anæmic and cold, then the semicupium will become useful. Instead of this, blankets may be wrung out of warm water, and applied several thicknesses over the feet and up to the hips, and continued until the parts become well warmed. This diverts the blood from the plus distended parts to the exsanguious.

"If there remains some pain of a part, as the epigastrium, or abdomen, apply an emollient epithem. A handful of hop flowers infused in water, or spirit and water, thickened with wheat bran makes a convenient application for this purpose; it should be large and thick, as well as of an agreeable consistence. If much coldness exists in a part, sprinkle it well with black pepper; this is better than mustard, as it readily excites without blistering. If there is much heat of a part that is pained, the epithem should be of an emollient kind.

"After sufficient rounds of the above applications, if there should be found tokens of some topical affection in a considerable degree internally, leeches, or cups should be applied. Leeches to the hard and sensible parts, and cups to the soft parts. It appears to be a fact, that after there has been a local affection sometime established, the capillaries keep up for a time an independent action; or it may be slow of removal, and is greatly expedited by local bleeding. These applications should be made early, or as soon as general bleedings have been carried to a considerable extent.

"Nothing hitherto has been suggested in relation to the fashionable practice of blistering with cantharides; a practice we formerly went deep into, but now think it not often necessary in fevers of high action." * * *

"Epispastics add severe, and oftentimes unprofitable stimulations to the general system, as well as to the part. They ought to be avoided in every pyretic state attended with much heat. Nevertheless, there are circumstances in which they may be useful, especially in protracted fevers. They should always be of ulterior application. If after the general and local remedies, already suggested, have been well employed, there should still be a local pain internally, of some considerable importance, an epispastic may be effectual for its removal." * *

"The practice of using opiate anodynes to mitigate pains in any form of fever, and local inflammations, is greatly to be deprecated; it is not only unjustifiable, but should be esteemed unpardonable; at least, after having heard a warning voice. Whilst these are used no benefits can be obtained by the radical treatment. In fevers of the synochoid character, the state of the diathesis may be such, that a single ordinary dose may put the case out of the reach of all remedies; and the greatest proportion by far of fevers of this climate, are of this diathesis; neither are they scarcely more justifiable in the reputed typhoid habit. Opium in all its modifications aggravates the morbid habit more than alcohol, or any other of the higher stimulants.

"The popular composition vulgarly called Dover's powder, is used extensively on the supposition, or pretence, of the hurtful effects of the opium being altered, or neutralized by its other ingredients. There is no modification of opium that alters its effects when given in a competent dose to affect the system. The black drop, and morphia have very nearly, if not entirely the same effects in stimulating the general system, in an adequate dose to ease pain, that the extract of opium has. These pretences are erroneous and delusive; for we have seen the latter as certainly fatal as the *ticute opus*, if not quite so speedily.

"These articles may occasionally be used in some conditions of distress, of the more strictly neuralgic kind, to much temporary benefit; also, a single dose at the onset of severe dysentery, cholera and ataxic fever; but after even these diseases have passed the stage of extreme irregularity, they add greatly to the danger; indeed, every condition of the established pyretic habit is made worse

by them, if not irremediable. It is probable, that for forty years past, opium, and its preparations have done seven times the injury they have rendered benefit on the great scale of the civilized world." * * *

"During the progress of synochal fever, considerable advantage is gained by small doses of some antimonial preparation, one given in the morning about 8 o'clock, and at about the same hour of the evening. The quantities ought to be just sufficient to excite a slight nausea, and if there should be any thing in the stomach that ought to be dislodged, it may excite emesis once or twice. If, however, the dose should not be so great as to excite even nausea, it will have a beneficial effect in promoting the secretions, and inducing composure. If we are not greatly deceived, this article has many times produced a tranquillizing effect in fever, so that the patient obtains more rest at night. It also favors an easy and salutary crisis, by directing the efforts of the system to some of the emunctories, as the skin, kidneys, or intestines. pp. 180—9

Phthisis as has already been said, is placed among diseases of the mucous tissues, and fifty pages are set apart for its consideration. The doctor re-asserts its curability, says nothing new of its causes, makes a blind thrust at the stethoscope, lays down some sensible prophylactic rules, and devotes twenty pages to the subject of its management, which may be thus briefly summed up. Let the patient live in a uniform temperature of about 75° Fah.; let him take, for one or two months, a warm bath, every night or every other night before going to bed; in the early stage let there be a pretty full bleeding which must be repeated at *short* intervals, perseveringly, whether the diathesis be synchoid or typhoid, till the morbid habit is removed. Give an emetic of antimony or of ipecac. every day or two; use demulcent drinks; after the pyretic excitement is subdued, or when there are excavations in the lungs, administer tonics cautiously, apply counter-irritants to the chest, under the same circumstances; resort to agreeable exercise, and, above all things, eschew opium. This latter condition is insisted upon with so much emphasis, and constitutes so striking a peculiarity in our author's treatment, that we subjoin his opinions at length. Speaking of narcotics he says,

"We do not wish to stop and dwell on negative treatment: but as these are recommended by even some late writers, and so much used, they are introduced for the purpose of disapproval. From much observation of our own, we are assured no progress can be made in the removal of constitutional pyretic affection, whilst opiates, or any other narcotic is used. Every case in which they have been used antecedently to the treatment, is sure to be rendered more uncertain, as respects a favourable result; unless we may except digitalis in a limited manner.

"The same remarks already made in relation to the use of narcotics in the acute morbid habit, (Sec. xlv. 1, i.) will apply in the chronic, and in an especial manner as relates to phthisis. We insist that no progress can be made in the removal of the disease whilst narcotics are used in any form. We impute the failures of those who have attempted the treatment of phthisis on some just principles, in a great measure, to the use of these deleterious agents, so freely intermingled with almost every other remedy. In part, however, in not having just views of the character of the disease.

"We have, on several occasions, shown the illusions which have led to their use; and we may now merely notice, that they are the highest stimulants ever introduced into the *materia medica*. They retard the exhalations, absorptions and secretions; render the tissues dry; afford a delusive truce to painful sensations, by diminishing the sensibility of external relation, and ultimately aggravate every phenomena.

"They co-operate with the *remote* and *proximate* causes of phthisis, and serve to fix the primary changes in the inmost tissues more permanently, and render

them more difficult of removal. Internal engorgements, or infarctions, are increased by their use, even in small doses; and every post mortem examination in subjects destroyed by narcotics, shows a violent state of congestion in the internal tissues of the head, thorax, and abdomen, similar to those produced in the internal tissues in the most malignant fevers.

"It is an unfortunate circumstance, that those who have advised their use in phthisis, have no better understood its pathological character, than the properties of these deleterious agents. There is something more than mere local irritation in the former, and the latter are something besides soothing sedatives. Many are more mistaken in these respects, than the deluded dram-drinker is in conceiving that another alcoholic draught will surely do him good. Their soothing influences are quite as brief, and their sequences more certainly pernicious.

"We freely declare, if compelled to use laudanum, Dover's powder, opiate cordials, or cough drops, &c., we would never attempt a radical cure of phthisis pulmonalis in any of its varieties. In the last stage of a forlorn case, they are more justifiable, in small doses; and yet a previous well conducted case will hardly need them, as the calm composure of the downward way is commonly disturbed by their use. In their omission, there is no running the risk of exciting a repulsive delirium, or a forbidding lethargy." pp. 283-4.

Departing from the rules which he had laid down for himself, and impelled thereto, undoubtedly, by a full consciousness of the necessity of sustaining his assertions by some positive evidence, Dr. Gallup reports two cases, and we have a right to suppose the two strongest cases furnished by his experience, illustrative of the efficacy of his mode of treatment. The first is that of Dr. Gibson, who, after thirteen bleedings, so far recovered his health, as to practise his profession some eighteen years, at the end of which time he is admitted to have died of phthisis. The second is that of a lady supposed to have had the disease for twenty years, who in the course of two years was bled twenty-eight times, and who is still living. To any physician fully acquainted with the character of phthisis, it is wholly unnecessary to say, that the occurrence of two such cases, or of half a dozen such, during the lifetime of a practitioner, has in it nothing at all unusual. In 114 cases reported by Louis, the duration of the disease was, in one instance, ten years; in two, twelve years; in one, fourteen years, and in one, twenty years. Such cases have always been occasionally met with, but there is no evidence, whatever, that they are prolonged by bloodletting, or by any peculiar method of management. The fact itself, that the deposition and development of the tubercular matter, and the progress of the disease, are in a few rare instances suspended for a long period of time, or entirely arrested, is well established, but, unhappily, the causes which bring about this auspicious result are not yet ascertained.

Under the third order, claiming to embrace diseases of the serous tissues, we find typhoid fever. Dr. Gallup adds nothing to our knowledge of this very common and important malady. His treatment of it consists in the early use of the warm bath and of transient and diffusible stimuli internally; frequent emetics of ipecac.; occasional moderate doses of calomel and rhubarb; moderate blood-letting; effervescing and refrigerant drinks, and, in nearly all cases, an avoidance of opium.

The concluding portion of the work is taken up with the character and treatment of the malignant ataxic diseases, among which are enumerated typhus gravior, plague and yellow fever, cynanche maligna, epidemic pneumonia, cholera, malignant dysentery and puerperal fever. Dr. Gallup's treatment of this class of diseases may be thus generally stated. In

the first stage of oppression, heat is to be applied to every accessible part of the body, external and internal, and light diffusible stimuli are also to be administered. As soon as the surface begins to grow warm, an antimonial emetic is to be given, and when by the use of these means any considerable degree of reaction begins to manifest itself, the lancet is to be resorted to, and used with freedom or reserve according to the peculiarities of each individual case. Opium, and all the high and permanent stimuli are to be scrupulously withheld.

We shall here close our notice of Dr. Gallup's book. We have bestowed upon it that full and sober attention which its claims and character appeared to us to demand. Of its peculiarities of style and grammar we have said nothing. These are matters of minor importance. We have aimed to state its doctrines fairly, and in the expression of our own opinions, while we have nothing extenuated, we have set down nought in malice. We have quoted freely from the therapeutical portions of the work, and so far as the author's practical maxims and measures are the result of observation and trial, and no farther, they are deserving of our attention. But we are obliged to add that they must be received with many allowances and with great caution, for reasons that have been already given. We regret that this is so. We regret that the value even of these better parts of the work before us is so much impaired by the coloured and refracting media through which the author has witnessed all morbid phenomena and all remedial processes. Dr. Gallup, with his well known indomitable energy of character, and his untiring perseverance, and with the wide and rich field of observation, in which he has passed a long and busy life, had he adopted a true method of investigation, and carried it out with that zeal and earnestness, which mark his devotion to a false and profitless philosophy, might have now given to the medical public a work of inestimable value. His most active and vigorous years were spent among a hardy, temperate, and rural population, in a region of remarkable general salubrity. His professional rides have been, not through the narrow, and dark, and noisome lanes of some huge metropolis, where poverty, and vice, and filth are huddled together with wretchedness and disease, but over the green hill-tops, and along the fresh clear rivers of Vermont, amid scenes that might have brightened the smile and gladdened the heart of Hygeia herself. But even here, where every breeze seems laden with health, epidemic disease in many of its most fearful and intractable shapes, has been but a too common visitant. During Dr. Gallup's residence here, dysentery, pleurisy, typhoid fever, scarlatina and spotted fever were frequently and extensively prevalent in their most malignant and destructive forms. A full and accurate history of all the phenomena of these successive epidemics—of their varying phases in different localities, and years, and seasons—of their symptomatology—of the condition of the organs in the fatal cases—of their rate of mortality—of the influence of age and sex, and of the effects of remedies, derived from close, attentive and truth-seeking observation, would have been welcomed by the profession of the present day with unmingled-gratitude and delight. It would have been to medical science an invaluable contribution and a source of lasting honour to its author. But this work has not been done: it can now never be done: the materials for it are irretrievably lost. And the same thing is true of most of the epidemics, which have at one time and another, devastated nearly all parts of the

world. They have been, for the most part, so imperfectly studied and described, that we can now form only very indefinite and fragmentary conceptions of their real character. Even the great work of Sydenham on epidemic diseases constitutes no exception to these remarks. We cannot now tell from his descriptions, whether his fevers are identical with the typhoid of New England and Paris, with the petechial typhus of Philadelphia and Great Britain, or with neither of these diseases. There is now but one true course for us. Leaving the past we must turn to the future, and under the guidance of a better method, and in the spirit of a sounder philosophy, begin anew the study of disease. The primordial and ultimate affinities and actions of the living organism are wholly beyond the reach of our investigation. We must cease to build upon this false and treacherous foundation, our theories of disease. We must cease to speculate about those things which we cannot know. At least we must cease to call this speculation, knowledge, to deduce from it our systems of pathology, and our indications of treatment. All this medical transcendentalism we must abandon; and we must give in our hearty allegiance to the simple, but stern requisitions of a rigorous, and strictly inductive philosophy. In due season we shall reap our reward. One after another we shall find the established LAWS and RELATIONS of morbid action naturally and spontaneously evolving themselves, the necessary and inevitable fruits of our researches. Our therapeutic and hygienic indications will then become more determinate and settled, and the conjectural act will be gradually conformed into one of fixed and positive rules.

E. B.

ARTICLE XII.—*Outlines of the Principal Diseases of Females, chiefly for the use of Students.* By FLEETWOOD CHURCHILL, M. D., Dublin, 1838, 8vo. pp. 402.

A FULL and accurate digest of the present state of our knowledge in relation to the pathology and treatment of the diseases peculiar to the female sex, is a work much wanted by the profession. Scarcely any class of diseases have received more attention than these, or in the investigation of which a greater amount of industry and talent have been engaged, and yet, there are few perhaps, the nature and proper treatment of which are less understood, or in which gross mistakes are more frequently made by physicians of ordinary skill and experience.

This results from various causes:—On the one hand, from the extreme obscurity of many of these affections, especially in their earlier stages; causing the patient herself often to overlook them entirely, or more frequently, to deceive herself as to their real character and location, and thus inducing her, in connection with the promptings of a false delicacy, to mislead her medical adviser, if he be not fully on his guard, as to the cause of the suffering and other morbid phenomena of which she complains, by withholding from him, the very facts necessary to enable him to arrive at a correct diagnosis and an effectual mode of treatment. On the other hand, it arises, from much of the valuable information we possess in reference to the diseases of females, being scattered through

various foreign periodicals, or, comprised in other works, but little acceptable to the great mass of our profession. To the student and young practitioner, especially, these affections are peculiarly perplexing.

To present, in a form adapted for their use, the pathological and therapeutic facts, in relation to the maladies incident to the female sex, deduced from the observations and experience of the most authoritative physicians, in different parts of the world, is the leading object of the work before us; which, although the author claims for it no higher character than that of simple outlines, compiled from the writings of others, with the addition of "whatever information he may have acquired from hospital or dispensary practice," presents, nevertheless, a tolerably accurate, though concise digest of the present state of medical knowledge, upon the subjects treated of; which, while it is well adapted for the use of the junior, as well as senior students, may, on many particulars, be consulted with profit by the generality of young practitioners.

The arrangement adopted by Dr. Churchill in the present outlines, is a somewhat unusual, though, in our opinion, a very judicious one.

The text contains a concise outline of the pathology and treatment of each disease, without any detail of controversies or conflicting opinions, which, whenever they appear of sufficient importance, are given in full, in the notes appended to each page.

"So that the junior student, by confining his attention to the text, may acquire elementary information, which may be subsequently extended by consulting the notes and references.

"In the notes, likewise, will be found extracts from various authors whenever the support of their opinions seemed desirable." "Any remarkable and authentic cases which bear upon the subject, have been also inserted, for the double purpose of elucidation and description."

The work is divided into two parts, the first treating of diseases of the external genitals; the second, of those of the internal genitals, comprising four sections devoted respectively to the affections of the vagina, uterus, fallopian tubes and ovaries.

The histories of the several diseases treated of, are, throughout, sufficiently clear and accurate; of course, the more minute details, however invaluable for the formation of a correct diagnosis, we are not to look for in a work of mere outlines, like the one before us. The pathological views detailed by the author, more especially in the second part of the work, are, in general, those entertained by the most distinguished physicians; occasionally, however, we are persuaded that a more minute investigation of the facts upon record, would have induced him to reject as altogether unsatisfactory, the views he has presented, while, in a few instances, the vagueness of expression which characterises this portion of the outlines, detract not a little from their merit and usefulness. The remedial measures that have been found by experience to be best adapted for the removal or amelioration of the maladies under consideration, are, in most instances, clearly described—although, in more than one instance we notice important omissions under the head of treatment, and too often, a use of general terms calculated to communicate no exact, and of course, but little useful information to the student.

The first part of the outlines, as we have already remarked, treats of the diseases of the external genitals, and is the least satisfactory of the two, into which the work is divided. The subjects of the first four chapters,

which are comprised in less than six pages, are phlegmonous inflammation of the external labia, encysted tumours of the labia, oozing tumour of the labium, and warty tumours of the vulva. The fifth chapter, on itching of the vulva, though more extended than the preceding, is altogether unsatisfactory, and in some particulars, inaccurate. This affection, we have found to be one of extremely frequent occurrence, and it is in most cases, highly distressing to the patient. Of the condition of the vulva and vagina in cases of pruritis, so accurately described by Dewees, no notice whatever is taken. The author appears also to have followed entirely those writers who have confounded this affection with furor uterinus or nymphomania—a gross mistake, the source of which it is difficult to understand, as the two affections may be readily distinguished by an accurate observer; we have, ourselves, never seen them even occur simultaneously. Dr. Churchill's account of the causes of pruritis vaginæ, is extremely vague and conjectural; what is meant by "the irregular disturbance of the genital system," which occurs about the cessation of the menses, and is included by the author among the causes of pruritis, we have puzzled ourselves in vain, to determine.

From the use of the several remedies recommended in this chapter, we have seen very little or no benefit to result, with the exception, perhaps, of the local application of cold water, frequently repeated. The remedies that have with us most often succeeded in allaying the intolerable itching, are a strong solution of borax as recommended by Dewees—a solution of sulphate of copper, and a wash composed of a few drops of creasote diffused in water. In very many cases, however, no one of the remedies employed have succeeded in removing the disease, often not producing even the slightest alleviation.

The ensuing chapter, on inflammation of the mucous membrane of the vulva, is a very good one. The disease is often met with, especially in infants, in regard to whom proper care has not been taken to keep the parts perfectly clean and dry; it is likewise of not unfrequent occurrence in older children, and when overlooked or neglected by the parents in its earlier stages, is apt to assume a chronic and very troublesome form. In these cases we have not found the disease so invariably confined to the mucous membrane of the vulva, as described by Dr. Churchill, but extending into the vagina, and occasionally to the urethra, and then causing the utmost distress to the patient whenever the urine is voided.

The two remaining chapters treat of enlargement of the clitoris, and of tumors at the orifice of the urethra; they are sufficiently accurate.

Of the second part, the initial chapter treats of diseases of the vagina.

Vaginal leucorrhœa, which is first considered, the author refers, in common with many, perhaps the majority of the most authoritative writers, to inflammation, either acute or chronic, of the mucous membrane of the vagina. In very many instances, there can be little doubt that the disease is attributable to inflammation of that membrane; there, nevertheless, frequently occur, cases of leucorrhœa, in which the discharge is very copious and difficult to arrest, and depending apparently upon an alteration of tissue in the vaginal mucous membrane, in consequence of which it secretes, instead of the ordinary mucus, a fluid morbid in its character as well as in its amount, and unaccompanied by the slightest trace of inflammation. This alteration of tissue, may, it is true, have been induced by inflammation, but cannot, with propriety, be considered as being iden-

tical with the latter in even its most chronic form. The fact is, that notwithstanding all that has been written on the subject of leucorrhœa, we are but little acquainted with its true pathology, and, in consequence, its treatment is in a great measure empirical and uncertain. Its extreme prevalence, and the very great inconvenience it almost always occasions to those who are affected with it, demands that a greater degree of attention should be paid, to acquire accurate views of its nature, leading to an efficient plan for its prevention and cure. The remedies which the author briefly enumerates, we have found in numerous cases to produce no beneficial results, nor do we know of any that will be found more generally successful.

The chapter on inflammation of the glandular structure of the mucous membrane covering the cervix uteri, is derived almost entirely from Clarke's work on Diseases of Females.

As a very fair specimen of the author's text, we present the whole of the chapter on granular inflammation of the mucous membrane of the cervix uteri—an important disease, which was, until recently, entirely overlooked, and is still frequently confounded, by inexperienced practitioners, with affections of a very different character.

“As this is a disease which can only be discovered by ocular examination, we could not expect to find any description of it in the older writers; but since the adoption of the speculum as a means of investigation, this and other morbid phenomena are much better known. The best, and indeed almost the only account of it will be found in the valuable work of Boivin and Dugès.

“These granulations, which may be seen on the labia of the os uteri, and on the external surface of the cervix, are the result of acute or chronic inflammation, and the two forms differ considerably.

“In the first species, or that resulting from acute inflammation, the granulations are occasionally few in number, about the size of peas, sub-pedicated, firm and whitish; more frequently, they are of the size of millet seed, whitish, but soft, as if vesicular, in great numbers, and without a pedicle. The contact of the speculum, or of the finger, or the act of defecation merely, gives rise to a discharge of blood from the membrane of the cervix uteri.

“In the second species, the consequence of chronic inflammation, the granulations are either small, hard and whitish—reddish and soft—or military, without redness of the surface of the cervix uteri from which they grow.

“The usual symptoms are pain and vaginal discharge. In the acute form, there is considerable redness, and vascularity of the parts, which bleed when touched. In the chronic form, these two characteristics are absent. There is some tenderness about the os uteri, with pruritis of the external parts, sometimes nearly causing nymphomania.

“The causes are extremely obscure. In some cases, it appears to arise from derangement of the catamenia, or from cold caught during menstruation or after abortion; in others, it appears referrible to cutaneous or syphilitic disease. Not unfrequently, it co-exists with induration or other organic change of the cervix.

“The diagnosis, with the aid of the speculum, is tolerably easy; but without it, it will require great care and a sensitive touch, as the granulations, when large, are generally soft, and when hard, are almost always very small.

“The most successful treatment consists in local bloodletting by cupping or leeches in the first instance, and in acute cases; followed by warm bath, emollient vaginal injections, and counter-irritation.

“In the chronic form, bleeding will rarely be necessary. Astringent or stimulant injections will be found most efficient, especially a solution of the nitrate of silver. Tonics (particularly the metallic) or mineral waters will generally be found very useful.

“Counter-irritation, by blisters on the sacrum or cauterization, will be found

to exercise a decided influence over the progress of the disease. Should there be any suspicion of a syphilitic origin, specific remedies must be employed. Every source of irritation should be carefully avoided."

The chapter on thickening of the cellular membrane surrounding the urethra, with a varicose state of the vessels, a disease frequently met with in females who have borne several children, is condensed chiefly from the work of Sir. C. M. Clarke.

The succeeding chapter on prolapse of the vagina is a very excellent one, presenting a very full and satisfactory outline of the causes, symptoms and treatment of an affection by no means of uncommon occurrence, and which from its being occasionally mistaken for prolapsus of the uterus demands to be well understood, especially by the young physician that he may be on his guard not to be led into an error of this kind. For a more extended study of this affection the references in the notes will be found useful.

Two short but interesting chapters on abscess between the vagina and rectum, and on tumours in the pelvis external to the vaginal canal, close this section.

Before proceeding to the consideration of the special diseases of the uterus, which form the subject of the next section, the author presents a few very general observations on their pathology and diagnosis. These will be found of great use to the student, especially the remarks on the modes of investigating the existence, extent, and character of these diseases by a manual or tactile examination, and by a visual examination by the speculum. The following extract is offered as a specimen of the manner, in which this subject is treated. We are prompted also to make the extract from this the only correct plan of investigating the diseases of the uterus being too often omitted entirely, or at least neglected in their first stages.

"In all investigations into the symptoms of uterine disease, we should, first of all, localise the complaint as far as possible, and then discover its effects upon the different functions. The discharges should be carefully examined, and their relation to the menstrual secretion ascertained, i. e. whether they occur about the same time or during an interval, whether they increase or diminish before or after the appearance of the catamenia, whether their colour varies from what is usual? or, if they possess an offensive smell? if the discharge be sanguineous, we should discover whether it commenced at a menstrual period? whether it is accompanied by pain or bearing down? These points should all be cleared up as far as possible, and even then there will often remain much that is doubtful. But as if to compensate for the insufficiency of the ordinary symptoms, we are possessed of other means of acquiring a knowledge of these complaints, which, combined with what I have already noticed, will, in most cases, leave us without excuse for any mistakes we may make. I allude to the power of making a manual or tactile examination. The extent and accuracy of the information derived from this source is very remarkable. By the '*toucher*' we are enabled, with considerable certainty, to decide the question of functional or organic disease. We can ascertain the degree of heat and moisture of the vaginal canal, the character of any discharge, the state of the cervix and part of the body: we can discover the presence of ulceration, of laceration, of displacements, with the exact amount of the mischief: we can detect the existence of scirrhus, cancer, or of morbid growth; by combining internal with abdominal examination we can throw light upon the distinction between uterine enlargements and pregnancy or ovarian disease. These and many other practical observations are the result of this mode of investigation. The principal points to which our attention should be directed when making the examination are; the state of the vaginal canal as to calibre, heat, moisture and sensibility, the condition of the pelvic cavity,

whether unusually empty, or filled, and by what? the elevation of the os uteri, its patency, sensibility, and integrity, the density of the cervix, its sensibility and freedom from morbid growths or ulceration; the position and volume of the womb, its mobility and sensibility. The nature of the discharge will be observed on the withdrawal of the finger. If there be a breach of surface, its extent should be ascertained and the coexistence of morbid deposition investigated. If hemorrhage, the state of the fundus and cervix is of importance, and also the existence of a fungous or polypous production. With regard to the two latter, it will be proper to discover, if possible, their attachment, and to inquire as to the possibility of their removal by ligature or excision."

After some remarks on abdominal palpation and examination per rectum, the author adds:

"We have seen, that by the touch, in connexion with the local symptoms, we can obtain information on all points, except that of colour, and the accuracy of the knowledge so acquired, is scarcely, if at all, inferior to that obtained by sight. It is very true, that a delicate sense of touch, and much experience is necessary, before this degree of perfection will be obtained, but it is equally certain, that perseverance in availing ourselves of every opportunity (both on the living and dead body) will ultimately be crowned with success. The only deficiency in our means of diagnosis (viz., the not being able to examine the parts by sight), has been supplied of late years by the introduction of the *speculum*, and to this we undoubtedly owe the extension of our knowledge of uterine and vaginal disease. Some new ones have been observed; and others already familiar have been accurately described."

The speculum "enables us to detect variations from the natural colour of the mucous membrane—slight erosions which might be passed over by the finger, elevations on the cervix uteri, or on the walls of the vagina, too little raised to impress the sense of touch. The length and thickness of the cervix uteri, can be accurately ascertained, and we are able to discern the colour of the surface of an ulcer. It will also confirm many other circumstances which have been recognised by the '*toucher*.' In a practical point of view it is very valuable, as enabling us to apply remedies (such as leeches, caustics, &c.) to the very part affected, without injury to the neighbouring organs. On the other hand, we must be careful that we do not mistake for morbid changes, those appearances which are caused by the instrument itself. For instance, too much pressure may alter the elevation and position of the uterus, and may produce a swelling and puffiness of the cervix. The speculum should not be used at all when the vagina is very tender."

The notes to this preliminary chapter contain much useful matter.

In speaking of the catamenia the author seems to consider the opinion of Mojon de Genes, that there exists no *peculiar* secreting apparatus for the production of the menstrual fluid, as a hypothesis altogether untenable. It is nevertheless the opinion of the best modern physiologists, founded upon considerations which can scarcely be overturned, that *all secretions* are separated from the blood without the intervention of any *peculiar* secreting apparatus in the sense in which our author employs the term—that they all take place by permeation through the coats of the blood vessels.

In the section which is devoted to the disorders of the menstrual function a very excellent outline is given of all the more important facts connected with the subject. To treat, however, as the author has done, of each derangement of this function as a disease, is in our opinion not calculated to lead to correct practical views. To consider the disturbances to which this function is liable in any other light than as phenomena dependent on certain morbid conditions with which the uterus itself is either directly or indirectly affected, and to the removal of which our remedies are chiefly

to be directed is not only a very gross error in pathology but one very liable to induce very serious mistakes in practice. The mere non-occurrence, suspension, irregular return or excess of the menstrual flux being in itself of comparatively little importance in comparison with the cause upon which it may happen to depend, nearly all our efforts directed to restore the discharge when absent, to restrain it when too profuse, or to cause it to recur at the proper periods, without a direct reference to the morbid condition of the uterus or the other organs giving rise to the disordered menstruation, will either fail in the attainment of the desired result or endanger the production of more serious injury than the mere disturbance of function they are resorted to to remedy.

Chlorosis the author treats of as invariably arising from disturbance of the menstrual flux, and lays down the first and most important indication in its treatment to be the removal or mitigation of such disturbance. Now it must be evident from a minute and cautious investigation of this disease, that in the majority of instances the disturbance of the uterine function is secondary to and dependent on the spinal disease, defective nutrition, and anemia which give rise to the various groups of symptoms to which the general denomination of chlorosis has been given, and which occur, under particular circumstances favourable to a deterioration of the general health and vigour of the organism, as well in the male as in the female. Hence the extreme folly and mischievous tendency of directing our attention primarily and mainly to restore the regular performance of the menstrual function, in the female, by remedies which are supposed to act directly upon the uterus.

The *Outlines*, of the author, on the pathology and treatment of Dysmenorrhœa, occupy ten pages, presenting a very ample summary of all that is known in relation to this distressing affection. His chapter on menorrhagia is also a very good one; we find very little of a controvertible character in his account of either its pathology or therapeutics. We are not prepared, however, to admit that the real menstrual discharge is very frequently so profuse as to render necessary the adoption of any very energetic remedies to moderate or restrain it. We believe that in every instance menorrhagia, as it is termed, or a morbid discharge of blood from the uterus, is a true hemorrhage, and invariably to be treated as such.

Some very judicious remarks are offered by Dr. Churchill in his chapter on cessation of menstruation, which physicians will do well carefully to attend to; for there still exists a very erroneous notion as to the extremely critical state of the health of females at this period, and the necessity of subjecting them to a proper preventive treatment.

"The period of this great change (cessation of menstruation) is," Dr. C. remarks, "about the age of 45 or 50; it is referred to by females as the 'time of life,' and is dreaded by them from a belief in its excessive mortality. This opinion probably originated with medical practitioners; it is at all events, advanced by the older writers.

"The mistake (for such it is) has probably arisen from comparing the mortality of females at this period with that at any earlier period; comparing, in fact, old and nearly worn out women with the young and strong. We should expect the deaths among the former to preponderate* but this is no reason for

* "Even this would appear somewhat doubtful, for M. Constant Sancerotte has attempted to prove by statistics, on a grand scale, that the mortality amongst women is greater between the ages of 30 and 40 than between 40 and 60. Muret in his statis-

attributing any peculiarly fatal influence to the subsidence of the uterine function. We ought, in truth, to compare the mortality in the opposite sexes at the same age, and we shall then arrive at a different conclusion.

"M. Benoiston de Chateauneuf has recently shown, by extracts from burial registries, that the mortality between the ages of 30 and 70 is not more considerable amongst women than men. But if the comparative mortality be less than was supposed, there can be no question as to the importance of this period; for in many cases, we find uterine and ovarian disorders dating from thence, and we know that it is about this time generally that the more malignant diseases commence. How far they may be owing to neglect at this period, it is very difficult to say; we must suppose, however, that the anatomical state in which the uterine system is left on the arrest of its function, must exert a certain amount of influence in their production."

Healthy women, the author very properly remarks, at this period, often get much fatter, the abdomen and breasts enlarge, and they not unfrequently persuade themselves that they are pregnant.

"Occasionally there seems to be a disposition to irregular distribution of blood, local congestions, &c.; but more frequently the health is improved. This is especially the case with those patients who have suffered much from dysmenorrhea or irritable uterus. Delicate females, and especially those subject to menstrual derangements previously, are exposed to local diseases of the sexual system, and especially to that series of changes which issues in confirmed disorganisation. This is the more to be apprehended if she have already been the subject of uterine disease, or if at the time any such disease be latent, and on our part it will require attentive examination and considerable practical skill."

In the chapter on the constitutional effects of the disorders of menstruation the author has described a series of symptoms some of which are no doubt immediately dependent upon derangement of this function, while much the greater number, although they may very generally accompany such derangement, we have room to believe, are improperly considered as its effects; they depend evidently upon the same morbid condition of certain organs to which the disorder of the uterine function is itself to be attributed. This is especially true, as we have already remarked, of the morbid phenomena constituting the disease denominated chlorosis.

In his account of the irritable uterus Dr. C. has followed Gooch almost exclusively. Many important additional facts connected with this disease, and the correction of some of the errors into which Gooch has been led, the author might have derived from the works of Addison and Dewees and the very interesting essay of M. Genet. As a means to assist our diagnosis, the pulsating, throbbing, or fluttering sensation within the vagina or pelvic cavity, which according to Dewees, differing in degree, is an almost invariable attendant upon irritable uterus and marks it in a special manner, forms an all important item in the list of its symptoms.

The chapter on uterine leucorrhœa is full, clear and highly interesting; and the same remark may be made in relation to the two succeeding chapters on physometra or uterine tympanitis and on hydrometra or dropsy of the womb, affections which though of not very unfrequent occurrence have had very little attention paid to their pathology. By many we have found even the possibility of their occurrence to be unsuspected. The chapter on moles, &c., of the uterus presents a very instructive digest of

tics of the *Pays du Vaud*, did not find between 40 and 50, a more critical age for women than between 10 and 20. M. Lachaise in his medical topography of Paris, has given similar evidence. *Liefranc, Mal. de l'Uterus*, p. 202.

the principal facts in relation to their pathology, with copious references to the several sources from which more detailed information may be derived.

The student will find in the succeeding chapters of this section a very able outline of the present state of our knowledge, in relation to the remaining affections of the uterus. The best authorities have almost in every instance been carefully consulted, and from their writings many interesting extracts have been introduced into the notes appended to each page: much valuable information may be derived, even by the practitioner, from a perusal of this portion especially, of the Outlines.

In the very excellent chapter on prolapsus uteri, the author speaking of the use of the pessary, and describing the various forms of the instrument that have been recommended by the more distinguished writers on this subject, remarks:

"Various objections have, at different times, been made against the employment of pessaries, and latterly they have been repeated, and urged with all the moral weight derived from long experience and high standing in the profession.

"As far as I have seen, they may be arranged under the following heads:

"1. They are indelicate.—(*Leake.*)

"2. If too small, they will not rest in the passage, but be forced out, and consequently do no good.—(*Leake.*) *

"3. They irritate the vagina, and give rise to leucorrhœa.—(*Hamilton,*) especially if too large, (*Leake, Murat.*)

"4. They cause irritation, ulceration, and fungous growths.—(*Murat. Annan. Hamilton. Dieffenbach.*)

"5. They give rise to putrid discharges from the vagina.—(*Murat. Dieffenbach.*)

"6. They occasion dilatation of the vagina.—(*Dieffenbach.*)

"7. They cause contraction of the same organ.—(*Dieffenbach.*)

"8. Patients have suffered under irritation of the bladder or constipation, whilst using them.—(*Dieffenbach.*)

"9. The pessary may become so incrustated with earthy matter, as to require breaking before it could be extracted.—(*Murat. Dieffenbach. Hamilton.*)

"10. The pessary has been known to make its way through the walls of the vagina, and into the rectum.—(*Dieffenbach. Annan. Hamilton.*)

"With regard to the first objection, if true, the operation only shares equally with all midwifery operations; nay, it is not a whit more indelicate than making a vaginal examination. If the second or third objections be valid it must be owing to an error in calculation, and if the operator be watchful, he will speedily obviate it. The fourth, fifth, eighth, ninth and tenth are only applicable to cases of gross neglect on the part of the patient or medical attendant, and cannot for a moment be admitted as any argument against the proper use of the pessary. As to the sixth and seventh, they cannot both apply to one case. Undoubtedly, a pessary will keep that portion of the canal in which it is situated, in a state of dilatation, but with equal certainty, the vaginal orifice will be relieved from the distension caused by the prolapsed uterus, and if every time the pessary be changed, one of a size smaller be introduced, it will be found quite adequate, and in many cases, a permanent cure may, at length, be obtained.

"With due respect, therefore, to the eminent authorities just quoted, their arguments do not seem conclusive against the proper use of pessaries. On the other hand, there is ample evidence from well authenticated facts, to show that the judicious employment of these instruments, so far from being injurious, is in many cases beneficial, and even preferable to any other plan of treatment."

Dr. Churchill very properly notices the operation proposed by Mr. Girardin, as a means of affording a more decided and permanent mode of relief in cases of prolapsus uteri, than that obtained from the best constructed pessary. It is an operation similar in principle to the one adopted

for the cure of prolapsus ani by Hey and Dupuytren, and has been performed with some modifications in Britain, by Doctors Marshall Hall, Heming and Ireland; in Germany by Professor Dieffenbach, Doctor Fricke, &c., and in France by Velpeau and Berard. The author's outline of the facts in relation to this operation are sufficiently full, and his reference to authorities very complete.

An interesting chapter is given on the Diseases of the Fallopian tubes; while the concluding section treats of the diseases of the ovaries—of the leading facts in relation to the pathology and treatment of which, a very complete digest is presented with copious notes and references. From the very great obscurity of the majority of these affections, particularly in their earlier stages—the slight amount of attention that has been paid to their investigation—the difficulty if not impossibility of removing or arresting them when they have eventuated in a change in the texture of the organs, and our ignorance of the means proper for their prevention, the present section of the *Outlines* is far less satisfactory than either of the preceding. This, however, is the fault of the subject—the author has brought together the few facts known in relation to the ovarian diseases, and future, more extended observations must be the means resorted to, in order to supply, if possible, whatever is deficient in relation to these affections, which are of more common occurrence than is generally suspected.

The foregoing remarks will enable our readers to form a tolerably just estimate of the plan and value of the work before us. We have not considered it either necessary or proper to enter into an extended review of it, or to note each particular in which our own experience would lead us to differ from the views advanced by the author, and the few instances in which he has, in our opinion, failed in exhibiting an accurate digest of all the facts known in relation to the subjects of which he treats—while the extremely condensed form in which the valuable matter comprised in these *Outlines* is presented, precludes any attempt at analysis.

As an introduction to the study of the principal diseases of females the work will be found, we are persuaded, a very excellent and useful manual. Even by the practitioner who is precluded by the want of the means or the time from a frequent reference to the numerous standard works on the affections peculiar to the female sex, it may be consulted with advantage.

There yet remains, Dr. Churchill remarks, two classes of the diseases of females not included in the present volume, namely, those occurring during gestation, and in childbed. These will form the subjects of another volume, should the plan of the present one be approved. As this can hardly fail to be the case, we may confidently expect the appearance of this proposed extension of the *Outlines*. The diseases of pregnancy and childbed are, if possible, even more important than those of the unimpregnated state, and in relation to which a vast amount of valuable information is placed beyond the reach of the generality of students.

D. F. C.

ARTICLE XIII. De l'Albuminurie ou Hydropsie causée par maladie des Reins; modifications de l'urine dans cet état morbide, à l'époque critique des maladies aiguës et durant le cours de quelques affections bilieuses. Par le Dr. MARTIN SOLON, Médecin de l'Hôpital Beaujon, Agrégé à la Faculté de Paris, Professeur particulier de Matière Médicale et de Thérapeutique, Membre de l'Académie Royale de Médecine, Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur. Avec planches coloriées. Paris: 1838.

Of Albuminuria or Dropsy caused by Disease of the Kidneys; of the altered character of the urine in this disease, and also at the crisis of acute diseases and during the course of certain bilious affections. By Dr. MARTIN SOLON, Physician of the Hospital Beaujon, &c. Paris, 1838.

THE principal object of this work is to advance our knowledge of the affection commonly known as "Bright's Disease of the Kidneys," but which our author calls "albuminurie," as being expressive of its principle and pathognomic character, viz: the presence of a large quantity of albumen in the urine. That the urine of certain dropsical patients contains albumen is a fact which had been known long before the appearance of Dr. Bright's essays. In particular, Cruickshank and Blackall divided dropsies into two great classes, according as they were or were not accompanied by albuminous urine. But it was reserved for Dr. Bright, of London, to establish the fact, that the kidney frequently becomes the seat of a peculiar morbid alteration, from whence results the diseased secretion of the organ, together with a certain train of morbid phenomena, of which a particular form of dropsical effusion is the principal. Since the appearance of Dr. Bright's work in 1827, various essays upon the same subject, and confirmatory of his positions, have been published by some of the most eminent physicians both of England and France, particularly Christison, Gregory, and Rayer. The disease in question is said to be of frequent occurrence in England, and we have no doubt that it will be found to be common in this country also. Nearly half the cases of dropsy admitted into the Pennsylvania Hospital, in this city, during the months of July, August, September, and October, 1838, were characterized by albuminous urine in a high degree. Our author's history of "albuminurie" is founded upon the reports of 28 cases of the disease, all of which are given in detail. The most important questions appertaining to this affection are fully and clearly discussed, and great caution and diffidence displayed in arriving at positive conclusions. Appended to the essay is an inquiry into the condition of the urine under various circumstances where the kidney is not the seat of Bright's disease, and especially at the crisis of acute diseases. Having premised this much, we shall proceed to a succinct analysis of the contents of the work.

The urine of persons in health contains no albumen. In upwards of five or six hundred trials, made by our author, of the urine of persons either recently restored to health, or habitually healthy, no traces of it were discovered, except for a short time in two of them, where it was most probably accidental. Heat and nitric acid do not render healthy urine turbid, but on the contrary clarify it when it is mixed with mucus. Both these agents, however, cause a coagulum in urine, which contains albumen even in very minute proportions, and are consequently the tests especially relied upon for the purpose of determining its presence. Of the two, the action of

heat is most to be depended on, as it occasions no change in the essential elements of healthy urine. In making use of it, however, we must be particularly careful that the urine is acid; if it is not so, it may easily be rendered so by a few drops of acetic acid.

Besides the twenty-eight cases of Bright's disease, our author reports four cases of inflammation or hæmorrhage of the kidneys. Of the twenty-eight above mentioned, twelve died. All these cases are given in detail, commencing with those which recovered. These are divided into several series, the first of which includes six cases of acute hyperemia of the kidneys, which is regarded by Dr. S. as the first stage of the disease. The second includes those more advanced, whilst the third contains the history of a single case in which the disease was supposed to have arrived at its third stage:—Then follow the fatal cases, accompanied in nearly every instance by an account of the post-mortem appearances. We shall not follow our author through these details, but proceed to the general results in connection with the most important questions which he discusses.

"We observe," says our author, "in reading the cases just detailed, that there exists, in the affection called *granular disease of Bright*, constant and prominent symptoms, together with anatomical lesions which are constant as regards their seat, but of various appearance. The symptoms are, albuminous urine, and dropsy in different degrees; the lesions, are a morbid alteration of the kidney, which from simple hyperemia—gradually passes to a peculiar state of yellow degeneration, &c." p. 179.

These lesions and symptoms, as is afterwards shown, constitute one and the same disease, which he defines "a special morbid condition of the kidneys, occasioning the presence of albumen in the urine, and the development of consecutive dropsies."

Dr. M. objects to the term *granular* as used to designate it, since granulations of the kidney are rarely met with in those who die. He likewise objects to the term *albuminous nephritis* adopted by Rayer, because it cuts short a question which is not completely settled, viz., the inflammatory nature of the disease. Besides, as there are very striking points of difference between it and nephritis properly so called, he thinks that the adoption of the latter term may prevent some from recognising the disease—"Thus," he says, "we expressed to a distinguished practitioner our fear that a certain patient was affected with Bright's disease. This, the practitioner in question, acquainted with the term employed by Rayer, at once denied, on the ground that the patient presented no symptoms of nephritis." p. 181.

The adoption of this term too, he thinks, might give rise to the employment of antiphlogistic remedies, which are suited only, and that when moderately employed, to the commencement of the disease, and not at all to its more advanced stages. It may be objected to the term *albuminurie* employed by our author, that the symptom to which it refers occurs in other diseases, to which he replies, that where albuminous urine is found in nephritis or other acute affections, it is very far from presenting the same characters which it does in Bright's disease. In the latter, albumen is almost the only principle contained in the urine, whereas in the former it exists only in small quantity and without excluding the other elements of the fluid. In the latter case too, albuminous urine is only of transient occurrence, and from this circumstance is readily distinguishable from the *permanent albuminurie*, which belongs to Bright's disease. Whatever may

be said, however, in favor of this term, we cannot see any reasonable objection to continuing for the present, the use of the term *Bright's disease*, or *Bright's disease of the Kidneys*, which has been very generally employed, not only in England and in this country, but we believe, also in France. If at any future day, when the nature of the disease shall be better understood, its affinity or identity with other pathological lesions shall be shown, the adoption of a term to indicate such affinity or identity would be highly proper, in order to preserve a uniform nomenclature.

Post-mortem Appearances.—Dr. S. found the kidney diseased in all but two cases, where probably the presence of albumen in the urine was owing to a derangement of nervous influence in one, and to the presence of cysts in the kidney in the other. At any rate, they cannot invalidate the testimony of the mass of cases which prove that a certain alteration of the kidney causes a change in the character of its secretion, and deranges the economy.

The morbid changes observed are classed under five different heads, which, however, are reducible to three principle ones, viz., hyperemia, yellow degeneration, other degenerations and accidental productions. In the first, the kidneys may be merely found engorged with blood, but more commonly are red, hypertrophied, heavier and larger than natural, the cortical substance being the especial seat of the hypertrophy. In the second variety, or that of yellow degeneration, the kidney is almost always enlarged; the hypertrophy, when it exists, depending upon a development of the cortical substance. Its external surface is of a very peculiar colour which may be compared to that of the pancreas. Internally, it presents the same colour, especially in the cortical substance, but as the disease advances, the tubular portion is also involved and in some instances cannot be distinguished from the other except by its rounded summit from which the urine may be made to flow. In the third variety, at the same time that the kidney is the seat of the yellow degeneration, it assumes also a granulated aspect, a form, however, which our author has rarely met with, though frequently noticed by Dr. Bright. The kidney also may become atrophied, whilst various accidental productions, as cysts, or tubercles, may be developed in its substance.

Causes.—Although adults are chiefly subject to the disease, children are not altogether exempt—contrary to the assertion of most authors, that men are more subject to it than women, the latter were found more numerous than the former amongst the cases recorded by our author. He thinks it possible that a moist and cold climate may favour its production, and accounts in this way for the apparently greater prevalence of the disease in England than in France. In the latter country too, it is more common in the north than the south. In further support of this view he urges the fact that many of his cases had been exposed to the influence of cold and moisture. I know of no data by which to determine the comparative frequency of the disease in this country, or even any one part of it. In the Pennsylvania Hospital, the writer examined a few months since, in conjunction with Dr. Meigs the resident, the urine of all the patients in the men's medical wards, and of the whole number which was about twenty, found but three in whom it was coagulated under the influence of heat and nitric acid—two of these were undoubted cases of Bright's disease, which was probably present in the incipient stage in the third, in whom there was organic affection of the heart. In a similar trial made upon a much larger number of patients in

the wards of Gay's Hospital by Dr. Bright, the number of patients with decidedly albuminous urine was found to be about one in six, a rather greater proportion than that found in the Pennsylvania Hospital. No positive inference can of course be drawn from the above comparison as regards the comparative frequency of the disease in this country and in England, but it will serve to show that it is far from being a rare disease amongst us, and consequently deserving of more of our attention than it has hitherto received.

Of the influence of diet our author is able to say but little, but he thinks that the habitual use of alcoholic drinks might oftentimes be regarded as the principal cause of the disease. Disease of the heart may also be looked upon as a predisposing cause, but not so phthisis, secondary syphilis, or mercury. In particular, our author is satisfied that gravel or urinary calculi have no influence in the production of this affection, whilst, on the contrary, they very strongly tend to the development of nephritis.

Symptoms.—The principal symptoms, as already mentioned, are albuminous urine and serous or cellular dropsy. Amongst the precursory symptoms even, there is none more important than the presence of albumen in the urine, which may for a time exist alone, without any other apparent disorder, and should induce us to fear the establishment of Bright's disease. In about one-third of the cases collected by our author, there was pain in the lumbar region, in some of whom fresh pain was excited by percussion on that part, but in all the others this mode of investigation occasioned no painful sensation. In acute *nephritis*, on the contrary, percussion is almost always insupportable.

The emission of urine was painful in only one or two cases, and that for a short time. Besides the presence of albumen, the urine presents several other modifications; it is generally less dense than healthy urine; its odour too is less marked, both when recent and after it has stood some time in open vessels; its colour varies, but most commonly is very pale and slightly turbid. When this last character is found united with infiltration of the limbs, it is of itself almost sufficient, says our author, to enable us to say that the urine is albuminous. In every case of Bright's disease, which has come under my notice, the urine has presented the peculiar characteristic aspect above alluded to. Urea exists in less proportion than natural, and, when the yellow degeneration is complete, disappears almost entirely, whilst the proportion of albumen becomes as great as possible. In the majority of cases the heart was natural, and not disturbed in its function; except, perhaps, in one case where there was vomiting. No decided sympathetic disturbance of the digestive system was observed, and diarrhoea was very rare. Habitual headach, followed ultimately by a comatose condition, have been considered as common symptoms in Bright's disease, but our author did not observe them at all in the sixteen cases which did not terminate fatally, and in only two of the twelve that died.

One of the most remarkable circumstances about the dropsy accompanying this disease is, that cellular infiltration always precedes serous effusion. This infiltration generally commences in the lower limbs, and the part which is the seat of it offers considerable resistance to pressure. They rarely, says Dr. S., acquire the size which is sometimes observed where the infiltration is owing to disease of the heart. My own limited observation does not accord with this assertion. In two cases which occurred last summer at the Pennsylvania Hospital, the anasarca was very great, and in

one of them it was enormous, so that the skin in every part seemed to be distended almost to its utmost limits. The dropsy is usually limited to the cellular tissue, but sometimes it extends to the serous cavities. Thus in eighteen of the twenty-eight cases under consideration, the anasarca was simple, whilst in the remaining ten it was complicated with various serous effusions; of these latter, ascites is the most common, and differs from that following disease of the liver, &c., only in the less degree of distension of the abdomen.

According to Dr. S., the disease presents itself both under an acute and chronic form. When acute, it is very rapid in its course, and terminates favourably if the patient is not carried off by some other disease. In others its course is slower, the disease being as it were latent, and giving rise to no other symptoms but albuminous urine, the existence of which is only discovered accidentally; at a later period, infiltration of the limbs comes on; here a part of the substance of the kidney is already altered in texture, but the greater part is healthy; the urine contains only a small portion of albumen, and preserves most commonly its natural colour; urea and salts are still found in it in considerable quantities. This condition may remain stationary for some time, or may terminate favourably. The disease progressing, however, by the more extensive alteration of the kidney; the urine becomes colourless and inodorous, gives an abundant albuminous coagulum, and is only of the specific gravity of 1.004 or 1.008. Sometimes the succession of symptoms does not take place as above stated, but the disease is already far advanced before the patients are aware of its existence.

Diagnosis.—Whenever, in examining the urine of a dropsical patient, we find an abundant coagulum constantly result from the application of heat and nitric acid, we may affirm that the kidneys are probably the seat of Bright's disease. Some exceptions, however, occur, though rarely, which may be distinguished, says Dr. S., by the following symptoms:—"The urine is habitually of a natural colour; it has preserved in part its odour, and lost but little of its constituent principles; the amount of albumen contained in it is slight; there exists some other cause, as disease of the heart or liver for example, which accounts for the dropsy, &c., &c. When, on the contrary, the urine has lost its natural density and colour, when it precipitates abundantly by nitric acid, or becomes turbid by the application of heat, there is no longer any possible doubt; the dropsy depends upon disease of the kidney, and not upon any other cause. Facts prove this most conclusively." pp. 241, 242.

As regards the distinction between Bright's disease and nephritis, our author observes, "that Mr. Rayer thought he was establishing an important difference between these affections, in giving to Bright's disease the name of albuminous nephritis. We do not assert that albumen exists in the urine of all patients affected with nephritis;" * * * * "but it seems probable that it is so in most cases, for we can affirm that it presented this character in the four patients attacked with acute or chronic nephritis, the only ones which have come under our observation for several years." pp. 246, 247.

These facts are important, and should lead to further investigation. The course of the disease, however, and the absence of œdema will readily distinguish nephritis from Bright's disease.

Prognosis.—It will be recollected that of the twenty-eight cases reported

by our author, sixteen recovered; from whence it appears that the result is not always so unfavourable as has been supposed by some.

Having described the character of the disease, our author goes on to consider certain questions belonging to its pathology. As regards the nature of the pathological alteration of the kidneys he says, "that what we observe most frequently at the commencement of the disease would seem to indicate the development of a peculiar irritation of the kidneys, under the influence of personal predisposition and the afflux of blood." This *hyperemia*, commencing in the cortical, and extending to the tubular substance, finally causes a modification in the nutrition of the organ, from whence arise the various forms of degeneration which belong to the disease. In two of the fatal cases, where death was occasioned by intercurrent affections, the kidneys presented this hyperemic condition without other change. The six cases of a more or less acute character, which terminated favourably, are referred to the same category. Without entering into a critical examination of these cases, the interpretation of which certainly admits of some doubt, we would merely observe that it seems to us unreasonable to refer to an irritation, the first stage of a disease which, in a majority of cases, does not present any of the characters which belong to such a state. Thus in the majority of cases, according to Dr. S. himself, there is no pain in the lumbar region, either spontaneously or by percussion. Even when pains did exist, they were not acute, and disappeared quickly when the disease became more severe; a circumstance very improbable if its progress depended upon the increase of an irritation. That the disease is very different from common inflammation our author himself admits, for he says, p. 251, that "these affections have nothing else in common except the fact of their being seated in the same organ." Why refer them both then to irritation, when in one the evidence of its existence is not to be found in a majority of cases? Is it not as easy, and much more in accordance with the facts, to suppose an alteration of nutrition independent of irritation, or of which the latter may only be an accidental and occasional accompaniment?

The next question which our author discusses is, whether the albuminous urine in Bright's disease, is dependent upon the morbid alterations of the kidney? A few cases are recorded in which very analogous symptoms have been observed, notwithstanding no such alteration of the kidney was found; and during the course of some acute diseases it is certain that the urine is sometimes albuminous for several days. These facts would seem to show that the kidneys are not necessarily affected in every case of Bright's disease. In the instances above alluded to, however, the urine does not present all the physical and chemical characters which it does in Bright's disease, nor does it contain albumen permanently, or in large proportion. Besides, not a single well characterised case, according to our author, has been adduced, in which the peculiar alteration in question of the kidney, has existed without albuminous urine. We agree with him then, in the justice of the conclusion, that the latter is dependent upon the former.

Omitting the discussion of several other questions, we shall proceed at once to give our author's view of the treatment. He says:

"Our results, based upon our own observations and those of others, show that the resources of nature alone are insufficient to overcome the

disease, for it is owing oftentimes to its having been a long time left to itself, that it becomes incurable.

"Therapeutics supplies us with some resources with which to combat it. We may divide into two series the means which appear to us the most proper to dissipate the two morbid conditions which we have observed, in one of which there are the evidences of renal hyperemia, sub-inflammation or latent inflammation, and in the other, of altered nutrition, organic degeneration and the development of accidental productions. In the first, the medication will consist in the employment of sanguine depletion or antiphlogistics, together with the use of diuretics and revulsives; and in the second, in the continuation of diuretics and revulsives of a more active character, but more especially in the prescription of various modifiers of the nutrition, so well designated by the name of alterants, &c." p. 276.

Of these remedies there are some which are suited to both forms, and these are first spoken of.

In the early stages bleeding is very important, and often, according to our author, exerts as powerful an influence in arresting the progress of the disease as in overcoming an inflammation. At a later period, also, it is somewhat serviceable, but in the advanced stage, is rarely productive of any marked advantage.

Diuretics.—After remarking that in a healthy state of the kidneys, we may employ indiscriminately almost any diuretic, he observes that, "in Bright's disease where our object is not merely to procure diuresis, but to modify the organic condition itself, the use of this species of medication demands much greater precaution. We shall not obtain from diuretics, which are in this case direct modifiers of the diseased organs, the desired advantages, unless we have reference to the diseased condition of these organs, whether they are the seat of simple hyperemia, or of positive change of structure. In the first, which constitutes the acute variety or stage of the disease, mild diuretics will undoubtedly be preferable; in the second, where the disease has passed into the chronic stage or form, the stimulant or rather *alterant* diuretics may accomplish the desired indication." p. 279.

Thus in the stage of hyperemia, he recommends acidulated drinks with nitre, gum water, flaxseed tea, cream of tartar water, &c." In cases where the kidneys are less excitable, digitalis in powder, and especially in infusion, also the infusion of horse-radish may be employed. These remedies, however, so useful in the early stages, exert but little influence when the disease is more advanced. Here we must have recourse to stimulant and tonic diuretics, and especially the squills, either alone or combined with calomel, opium, &c., according to circumstances. The oxymel and the bitter diuretic wine of La Charité, in which latter, it is combined with several tonics, are preferred by our author, who thinks that these preparations have been decidedly useful in cases where the disease was passing into the second stage. Various external revulsives should be employed, and especially the tartar emetic plaster.

Our author speaks very favourably of the action of purgatives, which may produce a useful revulsion at the same time that they unload the cellular tissue and serous cavities. He is not afraid of the inordinate irritation of the intestines so much dreaded by some, and which he thinks is occasioned in the hands of the English practitioners by the common admixture of calomel with their purgative medicines. He prefers the hydragogue

cathartics, the least irritating of which, however, must be chosen and at the same time cautiously managed. The oil of the *Euphorbia lathyris*, and the juice of the root of the European elder are particularly recommended. When the above remedies fail, *alterants* must be resorted to. Of these mercury was chosen by our author. Instead of calomel "which so often produces salivation" he made use of mercurial ointment in pills, which he thought less likely to cause the same effect; a drachm of the ointment was generally combined with two scruples of medicinal soap, sometimes a scruple of powdered squills, or of conium, and three to six grains of extract of opium; the mass was then divided into twenty-four pills, of which from one to three or more were taken in the twenty-four hours. In three out of eight cases in which they were tried, the symptoms entirely disappeared under their use. In two of the five which were not benefitted, the disease appeared to be far advanced, and in two others the great irritability of the mucous membrane of the intestines prevented the continuance of the remedy. Having remarked, that the above cases were too few in number to enable us to draw any positive conclusion, he observes:

"However, it is observable, that it was only when they produced salivation or diarrhœa, that these pills were not efficacious, * * * ; that their revulsive action was not advantageous, and that on the contrary, they were really as useful, only where they acted as alterants."

Having laid before the reader a general view of the treatment employed, we shall merely allude to one or two remaining observations upon minor points of practice. When speaking of the necessity of employing remedies for the purpose of relieving the patient from the inconvenient accumulation of water in the serous cavities in cases where the renal disease is far advanced, Dr. S. observes, that this condition of the kidneys prevents our deriving much advantage from the use of diuretics, since the secretion of urine rarely becomes so abundant as to occasion the disappearance of thoracic and abdominal effusions. It would not be desirable indeed, he thinks, that it should be abundant, as it would necessarily carry off a large proportion of albumen. He prefers employing for the relief of the symptoms in question, hydragogue cathartics, which may, perhaps, at the same time produce a favourable change in the kidneys themselves, by means of their revulsion upon the intestinal canal. As the blood contains a larger amount of water than natural, as well as less albumen, he recommends a full diet, and to endeavour to give to the blood its proper stimulating and plastic qualities, by means of ferruginous and bitter preparations. The second part of the work before us, is occupied with the consideration of the modifications of the urine at the critical period of acute diseases. In the course of his experiments upon the urine in Bright's disease, it became an object to examine whether the fluid was not also coagulable under other circumstances. The result was, that this property was found to exist at the period of resolution of many acute diseases. This fact, he thinks, as undoubtedly it is, of great importance in the study of the crisis of these affections. The urine under these circumstances presents itself to our notice under two different conditions.

1st. Where it coagulates or becomes turbid by the action of heat or other agents, which is called "**COAGULABLE urine.**"

2d. Where the same effect is produced by several reagents, especially

the acids, but where the matter precipitated differs essentially from the first, since it is dissolved by heat. This urine is called "*precipitable*."

In seventy-eight cases of acute disease, consisting of typhoid fever, pleuro-pneumonia, &c., the urine was found coagulable by heat or precipitated by nitric acid in sixty-two. The facts connected with most of these cases are particularized, and many of them reported in detail. They seem fully to establish the following conclusions drawn from them by our author, viz:

"That the urine becomes coagulable by heat, or precipitable by nitric acid, during the course of acute diseases; that sometimes the phenomenon shows itself at indeterminate periods, but is then but slightly marked; that in some cases it does not occur, notwithstanding that the disease terminates favourably; but that most commonly it shows itself towards the crisis of acute affections, and indicates their favourable termination." pp. 397, 398.

Of the sixty-two cases above mentioned, the urine was found coagulable by heat in only twelve cases, whilst it was precipitable by nitric acid in the remaining fifty. The fact of its coagulation by heat is sufficient proof of the presence of albumen in the first series, but in these cases, nevertheless, the urine differed from that found in Bright's disease, in containing a larger proportion of saline or other principles. As regards the nature of the precipitate formed by nitric acid, when the action of heat did not cause a coagulum, our author, after a careful investigation of the subject, comes to the conclusion:—

"That *critical precipitable urine* owes its properties to an excess of urea, uric acid and urate of ammonia." p. 424.

The third part of the work contains the exposition of some facts relative to the existence of the principles of the bile under certain circumstances in several of the animal fluids, especially the blood and urine. The presence of bile was indicated by the green tint produced by the addition of a few drops of nitric acid to the fluid containing it. Besides this, other changes of colour are sometimes produced, occurring in the form of zones. From the facts brought forward, it would seem that the diffusion of the principles of the bile in several of the animal fluids, particularly the blood and urine, takes place at least under the three following circumstances:

1st. As a consequence of the production of tumours, &c., which impede the passage of the bile into the intestines.

2d. As a consequence of inflammation of the liver or its appendages, jaundice, &c.

3d. In connection with the secretory disorder designated by the name of "*bilious state*" by the older pathologists.

These results are highly interesting, and, if confirmed, will at least afford an additional means of determining the existence of disorder of the liver in cases where it would otherwise be very doubtful. T. S.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

ARTICLE XIV. *The Elements of Materia Medica; Comprehending the Natural History, Preparation, Properties, Composition, Effects, and Uses of Medicines. Part I. Containing the General Action and Classification of Medicines, and the Mineral Materia Medica.* By JONATHAN PEREIRA, F. R. S. and L. S. &c. London: 1839.

THE reputation of Mr. Pereira as a lecturer on *Materia Medica* and thorough Pharmacologist had raised high expectations with the medical public in relation to the work which it was understood that he was preparing. Nor have these expectations been disappointed by the part which has just made its appearance. We are acquainted with no treatise on *Materia Medica*, in the English language, so full and at the same time so accurate as that of Mr. Pereira, so far as it has advanced. The volume now published, though confined exclusively to inorganic substances, with some preliminary general observations upon medicines, contains upwards of five-hundred and fifty large and closely printed octavo pages; and the work, if continued upon the same scale, will swell to three times this magnitude. When it is considered that the style of Mr. Pereira is remarkably simple and concise, and that no space is thrown away upon useless and irrelevant speculation, it may be conceived, how abundant is the mass of materials which he has collected. He treats fully of medicines in their relation both to Pharmacy and Therapeutics, giving in detail an account of their origin, preparation, chemical properties and habitudes, sensible qualities, physiological effects, therapeutical applications, and modes of exhibition. The numerous references to authorities, especially under the heads of the effects of medicines upon the system, and their uses in disease, prove at once the accuracy of the author and the great extent of his researches. His work is indeed rather a mine from which teachers and succeeding writers may derive materials, or a repository to which practitioners may occasionally resort for the supply of deficiencies, than a manual for students, who might be embarrassed by its abundance, and at a loss to decide upon the relative value of facts of which they could not retain the whole.

In most of the treatises upon *Materia Medica* in the English language, there is an evident want of a due balance between the department which treats of the mere physical properties and the preparation of medicines, and that which is concerned with their direct application as therapeutical agents. This arises probably from the great amplitude of the science, which renders it difficult to attain a thorough acquaintance with one of its sections without more or less neglecting another. Thus he who has devoted to chemistry and the natural sciences a degree of attention calculated to make him an eminent pharmacist, is apt to be deficient in therapeutical experience; and the skilful practitioner of medicine is not always the one most conversant with the physical properties and preliminary management of the remedies which he employs. Writers partake of the same inequality of attainment; and their works not unfrequently exhibit, in their partial elaborateness, the peculiar bias or partial qualification of their authors. We have not this complaint to make against the work of Mr. Pereira. He appears to have devoted an equal and full attention to the different branches of his subject, and while he exhibits the somewhat rare qualities of a

good chemist and naturalist in his pharmaceutical descriptions, is not less copious in the therapeutical department, although the absence of extended theoretical disquisition in the latter, may give it more of a Doric air than is exactly agreeable to eyes so much accustomed as those of medical readers in general are to the ornaments of a Corinthian fancy.

If we have any fault to find with the treatise before us, it is in relation to the plan of arrangement which has been adopted. Mr. Pereira divides medicines into those furnished by the inorganic or mineral kingdom, and those which are the result of organic or vital action. The former he classifies according to their chemical composition, the latter, according to the position of the plant or animal from which they are derived in the arrangements of the naturalists. This would be the truest system of classification in a work of pure science, without any especial practical bearing: but in a treatise intended for the guidance of the medical practitioner or the instruction of the medical student, the relation which ought to serve as the basis of an arrangement is obviously that which is of necessity most frequently present to the mind of the reader, and is best calculated to assist him in the future application of his knowledge. Such a relation, in the present case, is that which medicines bear to the human system. A classification founded upon their physiological effects is therefore most appropriate in a treatise upon medicines considered in a therapeutical point of view, nor do we altogether agree with Mr. Pereira, who, while he admits the superiority of such an arrangement, could it be effected, deems our present knowledge of the effects of medicines upon the system too uncertain to allow of a successful classification upon this foundation. It is undoubtedly true that a precise knowledge of the physiological action of many medicines is yet wanting; nor is it by any means certain that, were we in possession of such knowledge, a faultless classification would be the result; for in this, as in most other departments, nature has so distributed the properties of bodies, that, while the greater number are found capable of being associated in well defined categories, there are always some which partake of the characters of different classes, and cannot with propriety be arranged in any one exclusively. That an exact physiological arrangement of medicines, therefore, cannot be effected, is no reason that this plan should be entirely abandoned; as the defect is one which it shares with all other systems, while none is equally efficient, in the present cases, for practical good. But Mr. Pereira, while he adopts the chemical and natural history basis of arrangement, when treating of individual medicines, has introduced among his preliminary observations a physiological system of classification, with general remarks upon each class, which will, in a considerable degree, obviate the disadvantage to the student of the plan which he has pursued in the body of the work.

In a brief notice like the present, it would be impossible to do justice to Mr. Pereira's treatise by extracting any portion of its contents, or giving an account of its details. The general qualities which recommend it are copiousness, fidelity, accuracy, and a singular neatness and perspicuity of style. Should it be completed in the manner in which it has been commenced, it will fill up a gap in English medical literature, of which those who are conversant with the pharmacy and materia medica of the continent have long been sensible. G. B. W.

ARTICLE XV. *Prospetto Statistico-Clinico-Psichiatrico con Classificazione dei Recoverati nel Regio Manicomio di Torino.* Del Dottore CIPRIANO BERTOLINI, Medico Primario del pio Istituto. 8vo. pp. 205, Turin, 1832.

Saggio di Statistica del Regio Manicomio di Torino, dal 1o di gennaio 1831, al 31 Dicembre, 1836. Del Dottore GIO. STEFANO BONACOSSA, Medico Assistente di detto Manicomio. 8vo. pp. 127, Turin, 1837.

THESE TWO works afford a very complete and interesting statistical view of the cases of insanity treated in the Royal Insane Hospital of Turin, during the six

years and a half ending December 31st, 1836; exhibiting the number of the patients of each sex received, discharged, and deceased during each month of that period; the provinces from which they came, with the population of each province; the respective ages of the patients; the number of married and single; the species of derangement with which the patients of the different sexes, ages and provinces were affected; the age and sex of the discharged and dead; the causes of the several species of insanity in each sex, presented under several points of view; the duration of each case to the period of cure or decease; the immediate cause of death in those cases which terminated fatally, and meteorological observations for the period to which these statistics refer.

Besides the foregoing strictly statistical details, each of the works contains a variety of interesting remarks in relation to the classification, pathology, and treatment of the several forms of insanity; accompanied, in the first, by the history of a number of cases with the autopsy of those which terminated in the death of the patient; and, in the second, with a very full account of the Royal Insane Institution of Turin, and of its government and internal economy.

It must be evident that works of the character of those before us, scarcely admit of review or of a satisfactory analysis. The more important pathological and therapeutical remarks they embrace are so intimately connected with the accompanying statistical details, as to be comparatively of little interest when examined separately from them; while the chief value of the latter consists in their minuteness.

We believe, however, that we shall be enabled to select, from the tables contained in the essay of Dr. Bonaccossa, some general facts interesting to such of our readers as have turned their attention especially to the diseases of the mind. Previously, however, to attempting this, it will be proper to present the definitions given by that gentleman of the four species of mental derangement, which he includes under the denomination Insanity; namely, *mania*, *dementia*, *monomania*, and *lipomania*. Mania he defines an exaggeration, an increased energy of all or of the greater part of the intellectual faculties, and especially of the memory, associated constantly with an excitement of the locomotive apparatus. In this disease, a multitude of ideas, on indifferent subjects, are so rapidly and with so much activity reproduced, that their regular and permanent association is rendered impossible.

By dementia, he would express a derangement of the intellectual faculty, without the expression of any particular passion; there being no longer a continued and regular connection of ideas, whether from defect of memory or from a default of the faculty on which depends the power to unite, and compare correctly those ideas which recur to the mind.

By monomania, he understands an excessive activity of some instinctive faculty united to a series of corresponding ideas.

By lipomania, (*tristimania* of Rush,) he denotes a moral condition in which sad or mournful ideas predominate, with self discontent, and a character extremely timid, hesitating, diffident, and superstitious.

The whole number of patients admitted into the Royal Insane Hospital of Turin, from the 1st of January, 1831, to the 31st of December, 1836, was 1066; namely, males 650, females 416; of these 538, namely, 400 males and 138 females, were unmarried, and 528, 250 males and 278 females, were married.

Of the 1066 patients, 966 (577 males and 389 females) were affected with the different forms of insanity; namely, 256 (167 males and 89 females) with *mania*; 206 (133 males and 73 females) with *dementia*; 238 (127 males and 111 females) with *monomania*; 266 (150 males and 116 females) with *lipomania*; while 56 patients (41 males and 15 females) were affected with *idiocy*; and 44 (32 males and 12 females) were affected with *acute delirium*.

The greatest number of the patients were admitted during the months of July, August and September, namely, 342, or rather more than one-third; the smallest number in January, 60: from the 1st of January to the 1st of April, the number admitted was 204; from the 1st of September to the 1st of December, it was 249.

The ages of the patients were as follows:

Under 5 years,	1—	a female.
Between 5 and 20 years,	49—	31 males and 18 females.
“ 20 and 30 “	272—176	“ 96 “
“ 30 and 40 “	342—213	“ 129 “
“ 40 and 50 “	222—119	“ 103 “
“ 50 and 60 “	104— 69	“ 35 “
“ 60 and 70 “	41— 27	“ 14 “
“ 70 and 80 “	7— 1	“ 6 “
Ages not indicated	28— 14	“ 14 “

The largest number of patients were between 35 and 40 years, namely, 183, (114 males, 69 females;) the next largest number were between 30 and 35 years, viz: 159, (99 males, 60 females;) the next, between 25 and 30, viz: 151, (95 males, 56 females;) the next, between 40 and 45, viz: 127, (69 males, 58 females;) the next, between 20 and 25, viz: 121, (81 males, 40 females;) the next, between 45 and 50, viz: 95, (50 males and 45 females.)

From the table showing the previous occupations and rank of the patients, no very definite conclusions can be derived, unless we possessed a knowledge of the proportion which each occupation and rank to which the patients belonged bears to the entire population.

Selecting the largest numbers, as they appear in the table, we find of peasants and persons from the country there were 428, (233 males and 195 females;) of the military 69; of female servants 58; persons following a variety of occupations 55, (18 males, 37 females;) females engaged in domestic duties 44; shoemakers 37, (20 males, 17 females;) priests 20; persons of property 19; carpenters 16; persons in office 14; masons 14; merchants 13; students 11; tailors 11; surgeons 10; coach-drivers 9.

Of 1045 of the cases admitted, in 646 (393 males, 253 females) the disease is referred to physical causes, and 299 (164 males, 135 females) to moral causes.

Of the physical causes, 133 cases are referred to hereditary predisposition, (80 males, 53 females:) Namely,

	Mania.	Dementia.	Monomania.	Lipomania.	Idiocy.	Delirium.
Males,	26	15	6	21	6	6
Females,	16	4	16	13	4	0
Total,	42	19	22	34	10	6

85 are referred to *diseases and injuries of the head and brain*, (57 males, 28 females:) Namely,

	Mania.	Dementia.	Monomania.	Lipomania.	Idiocy.	Delirium.
Males,	14	20	7	11	2	3
Females,	4	6	8	5	3	2
Total,	18	26	15	16	5	5

76 to the *abuse of wine and ardent spirits*, (73 males, 3 females:) Namely,

	Mania.	Dementia.	Monomania.	Lipomania.	Idiocy.	Delirium.
Males,	26	13	13	13	1	8
Females,	1	0	1	1	0	0
Total,	27	13	13	14	1	8

35 to *epilepsy*, (30 males, 5 females:) Namely,

	Mania.	Dementia.	Monomania.	Lipomania.	Idiocy.
Males,	16	3	4	3	4
Females,	1	1	1	2	0
Total,	17	4	5	5	4

28 to the *abuse of mercury*, (29 males, 6 females:) Namely,

	Mania.	Dementia.	Monomania.	Lipomania.
Males,	2	9	3	8
Females,	1	1	3	1
Total,	3	10	6	9

27 to *disease of the abdominal viscera*, (12 males, 15 females:) Namely,

	Mania.	Dementia.	Monomania.	Lipomania.	Delirium.
Males,	4	1	0	6	1
Females,	2	2	2	9	0
Total,	6	3	2	15	1

19 to *insolation*, (14 males, 5 females:) Namely,

	Mania.	Dementia.	Monomania.	Lipomania.	Delirium.
Males,	5	2	6	0	1
Females,	1	2	0	1	1
Total,	6	4	6	1	2

18 to *syphilis*, (11 males, 7 females:) Namely,

	Mania.	Dementia.	Monomania.	Lipomania.
Males,	1	8	1	1
Females,	3	1	3	0
Total,	4	9	4	1

15 to the *suppression of various abnormal discharges*, (13 males, 2 females:) Namely,

	Mania.	Dementia.	Monomania.	Lipomania.	Idiocy.	Delirium.
Males,	2	5	4	2	0	0
Females,	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total,	2	5	4	2	1	1

14 to the *abuse of venery and onanism*; all males: Namely,

	Mania.	Dementia.	Monomania.	Lipomania.	Idiocy.
	3	2	2	6	1

12 to *diseases of the chest*, (5 males, 7 females:) Namely,

	Mania.	Dementia.	Monomania.	Lipomania.	Idiocy.	Delirium.
Males,	2	0	1	1	0	1
Females,	0	2	1	0	2	2
Total,	2	2	2	1	2	3

12 to *excessive fatigue*, (10 males, 2 females:) Namely,

	Mania.	Lipomania.	Idiocy.	Delirium.
Males,	2	5	2	1
Females,	0	2	0	0
Total,	2	7	2	1

54 to *disorders of menstruation, diseases of the uterus, and the accidents of pregnancy and parturition, &c.*: Namely,

	Mania.	Dementia.	Monomania.	Lipomania.	Idiocy.	Delirium.
	14	2	16	17	1	4

Of the moral causes, 124 cases are referred to the disturbance of mind resulting from *poverty and distress*, (54 males, 70 females:) Namely,

	Mania.	Dementia.	Monomania.	Lipomania.	Idiocy.	Delirium.
Males,	11	9	9	23	2	0
Females,	14	8	18	28	1	1
Total,	25	17	27	51	3	1

35 to *love*, (16 males, 19 females:) Namely,

	Mania.	Dementia.	Monomania.	Lipomania.	Idiocy.	Delirium.
Males,	4	0	4	7	1	0
Females,	3	7	5	2	1	1
Total,	7	7	9	9	2	1

22 to *domestic troubles*, (17 males, 5 females:) Namely,

	Mania.	Dementia.	Monomania.	Lipomania.
Males,	2	2	3	10
Females,	0	1	1	3
Total,	2	3	4	13

21 to *religion*, (12 males, 9 females:) Namely,

	Mania.	Dementia.	Monomania.	Lipomania.	Idiocy.	Delirium.
Males,	2	2	5	2	1	0
Females,	1	0	7	0	0	1
Total,	3	2	12	2	1	1

19 to *jealousy*, (9 males, 10 females:) Namely,

	Mania.	Dementia.	Monomania.	Lipomania.	Delirium.
Males,	1	3	2	3	0
Females,	1	4	0	4	1
Total,	2	7	2	7	1

16 to *reverses of fortune, disgrace*, (15 males, 3 females:) Namely,

	Mania.	Dementia.	Monomania.	Lipomania.	Idiocy.
Males,	1	0	6	7	1
Females,	0	1	1	1	0
Total,	1	1	7	8	1

17 to *terror and fright*, (8 males, 9 females:) Namely,

	Dementia.	Monomania.	Lipomania.
Males,	0	4	4
Females,	1	4	4
Total,	1	8	8

7 to *protracted study*—all males: Namely,

Mania.	Dementia.	Monomania.	Lipomania.
1	2	2	2

Of the 1066 cases admitted in the institution during the six years and a half to which the present statistics refer, there were within that time 466 (388 males, 178 females) discharged well, and 398 (188 males, 140 females) died.

Of those *discharged well*,

25, namely, 17 males and 8 females, were from 5 to 20 years old.

113, " 70 " 43 " 20 to 30 "

168, namely 101 males and 67 females were from 30 to 40 years of age.

111,	"	66	"	45	"	40 to 50	"
24,	"	16	"	8	"	50 to 60	"
23,	"	17	"	6	"	60 to 70	"
8,	"	2	"	1	"	70 to 80	"

1, a male over 80 years of age.

Of those who died,

9, viz: 5 males and 4 females, were from 5 to 20 years of age.

60,	"	34	"	26	"	20 to 30	"
78,	"	46	"	32	"	30 to 40	"
96,	"	50	"	46	"	40 to 50	"
47,	"	32	"	15	"	50 to 60	"
30,	"	17	"	13	"	60 to 70	"
7,	"	4	"	3	"	70 to 80	"

1, a female was over 80 years of age.

With respect to the nature of the disease which was the immediate cause of death in these cases, we are informed that

1 in	52	died from chronic spinitis.
1 in	8	" meningo-arachnitis.
1 in	130	" acute encephalitis.
1 in	10	" encephalo-meningo-arachnitis.
1 in	86	" chronic phlebitis.
1 in	37	" cardio-arteritis.
1 in	18	" consumption, or pneumonia with suppuration.
1 in	18	" chronic pleuro-pneumonia.
1 in	86	" acute pleuro-pneumonia.
1 in	37	" chronic gastro-hepatitis.
1 in	160	" acute hepatitis.
1 in	13	" chronic gastro-enteritis.
1 in	86	" chronic cystitis.
1 in	260	" acute metritis.
1 in	130	" chronic metritis.
1 in	32	" dysentery.
1 in	13	" diarrhoea.
1 in	52	" ascites.
1 in	18	" hydrothorax and hydropericardia.
1 in	37	" hydrothorax.
1 in	10	" hydrocephalus with meningitis.
1 in	65	" scurvy.
1 in	65	" tabes mesenterica.
1 in	21	" serous apoplexy.
1 in	18	" sanguineous apoplexy.
1 in	50	" external surgical diseases.

D. F. C.

ARTICLE XVI.—On the Nature and Treatment of the Diseases of the Heart; with some new Views on the Physiology of the Circulation. By JAMES WARDROP, M. D. &c. Part I. 8vo. pp. 100. London: 1837.

THE first part of Dr. Wardrop's treatise, which is all of it that we have as yet received, is devoted to preliminary observations on the structure and functions of the heart, with which are interspersed some new physiological views on the circulation.

In his investigations of the causes and treatment of the diseases of the heart, Dr. W.'s attention was directed to certain symptoms with which various affections of that organ are accompanied, and, in seeking an explanation of them he was led to reflect on several natural phenomena connected with the circulation

of the blood in the heart, and with the function of respiration, but of which he could find no satisfactory explanation; and to some of them even no allusion, in physiological writings.

He was particularly struck with the influence of respiration on the action of the heart, and with the influence of the latter on respiration, as well as with all the modifications of these functions, not only in diseases, but likewise during the acts of weeping—sobbing—crying—laughing—in the giddiness experienced in turning round rapidly—in swinging, and in sea sickness.

“His attention was not less arrested when contemplating the influence, which the almost constant movements of the body exercise both on the respiratory and the circulatory organs. He was led to inquire how the action of the heart and lungs is increased by violent exercise—how persons can acquire by a process of ‘training’ the power of using their muscles, until their muscular energy is exhausted, without causing breathlessness or a sense of suffocation—in what the art of diving consists—and finally, how diseases of the heart are caused by violent muscular exertions, and by mental excitement.

“Having arrived at the conclusion, that these various phenomena are intimately connected with the great function of the circulation of the blood, further observations convinced the author, that each of these different acts is employed for performing a specific purpose in the economy—some for increasing and others for diminishing the quantity of blood within the thoracic cavity, according as modifications in the quantity of the blood are required, or an adjustment becomes necessary in different organs for the due performance of their respective functions.

“In pursuing these investigations his mind was conducted, step by step, to establish the existence of three important functions—functions connected with the circulation of the blood which had hitherto been overlooked by physiologists.

“*First*—That the muscles besides being the active organs of locomotion, perform the important office of increasing the quantity of arterial as well as of venous blood, within the cavities of the heart.

“*Secondly*—That the lungs regulate the supply of blood to the heart so as to prevent congestion within the heart’s cavities, and

“*Thirdly*—That the subcutaneous veins performing the office of a reservoir, prevent congestion of blood within the pulmonary vessels.”

The author maintains that although it may be strictly true that the blood flows in a circle, and that the heart, like a syringe, propels the sanguineous fluid throughout the whole system, yet there are other physical conditions necessary for the due performance of that important function—conditions to which we must constantly refer in all our pathological researches. Every part of the body requires a certain quantity of the blood to be sent to it, but it is indispensable, also, that this supply be variously modified in relation to different organs. In some it is requisite the supply be always equal and uniform, whilst, in others, it is necessary that the quantity of the blood can be either diminished or increased. Of the first of these conditions, there is an example in the brain, and of the other, we have an illustration in the stomach, in which viscus, during the process of digestion, the quantity of blood is more or less increased. Another illustration of a temporary change in the quantity of blood in particular organs is afforded in the erectile tissues.

“The length of different arterial trunks—the different angles at which the branches leave the trunks—the varieties in the course or trajet of arteries—the different modes in which they ramify—and the anastomoses of arteries, are,” according to Dr. W. “all peculiarities which are contrived to modify the circulation of the blood in particular organs.”

The author is of opinion that the muscles, besides being the active organs of motion, become essential auxiliaries in the circulation of the blood, in both arteries and veins, by the pressure which they produce during their contractions on the adjacent vessels. This he denominates the musculo-cardiac function.

Whilst the pressure caused by muscles during their contraction, propels the blood onwards in the contiguous veins, Dr. W. maintains, that the effect of muscular contraction, both on arteries adjacent to, and those embedded in, the

substance of muscles, must be to compress these vessels, and thus to impede the flow of blood through them; hence, he remarks, the contraction of muscles will increase the accumulation of blood within the heart in two ways—by *accelerating* the flow of the *venous* blood to the right heart, and by *impeding* the transit of the *arterial* blood from the left heart.

While it appears not to be requisite that certain organs should be at all times supplied with an equal quantity of blood, there are others wherein any alteration in the supply of blood would be prejudicial, or even fatal, to the great functions of life. Hence, whenever the heart requires an additional quantity of blood, this, according to our author, is accomplished by impeding the flow of the arterial blood through the arteries of those organs only which do not at all times require a uniform supply of the sanguineous fluid.

"In accordance with these positions, we find," he observes, "that the arteries of all organs of the first denomination are so placed that they must inevitably be more or less compressed by the contractions of the adjacent muscles; whilst the arteries of the other class of organs are so situated, that they are protected from all pressure from the movements of the muscles contiguous to them."

Of the first of these conditions we have an example in the arteries of the limbs, and of the second, in the arteries of the brain, heart, stomach and iris.

Arteries accompany the veins where it is intended that *both* the systems of vessels shall be influenced by muscular contractions—while those vessels which are *not* liable to compression from the contraction of muscles are not similarly disposed, either with relation to the muscles, or to each other—thus in the internal viscera, such as in the brain, lungs, and liver, the veins do not accompany the arteries.

The involuntary muscles perform agreeably to the views of Dr. W. an equally important share in modifying the circulation of the blood.

"The vermicular motions of the stomach and intestines during the process of digestion, must doubtless," he remarks, "have a very considerable influence on the circulation of the blood, both in the veins and in the arteries of these organs, and hence, during the movements of the alimentary canal, we observe an increase in the frequency of the pulse."

In regard to the influence which the respiratory organs exercise on the action of the heart, and the share they have in carrying on the great function of the circulation of the blood. By whatever powers, the author remarks, the venous blood reaches the two vena cavae, the act of *inspiration* assists in bringing the *venous* blood into the right heart—it also assists the circulation of the blood in the pulmonary arteries; the expansion of the lungs accelerating the ingress of the venous blood into the pulmonary arteries, and also permitting the arterialized blood to flow readily through the pulmonary veins. During *expiration*, the collapse of the lungs and the subsidence of the parietes of the chest and abdomen, aid by their pressure the transmission of the arterial blood from the lungs into the left heart, and also assist in propelling the blood along the large arteries, at the same time impeding the current of blood coming from the right ventricle into the pulmonary artery.

"Inspiration may be therefore considered as accessory to the *venous*, and expiration to the *arterial* circulation, the one aiding the heart like a sucking, and the other like a forcing pump."

"Besides these two important offices of the respiratory apparatus connected with the circulation of the blood, both of which may be considered as altogether depending on changes in the form and capacity of the thoracic cavities, there is a third, and as Dr. W. has endeavored to show, accessory function which is performed by the lungs themselves, the pulmonary vessels serving as a receptaculum or reservoir for receiving any surplus quantity of blood whether venous or arterial which the cavities of the heart cannot admit."

In order to distinguish this function from all the others performed by the respiratory apparatus, Dr. W. denominates it the *pulmo-cardiac function*.

"Whenever," he remarks, "from any cause the systemic blood cannot find a

ready exit from the left ventricle, and when, at the same moment, there is no diminution in the supply of venous blood to the right heart an accumulation or congestion of blood must then take place within the cavities of the heart, and therefore, in order to prevent such undue accumulation, the effects of which would be more or less injurious, further means become requisite, besides the expansive power of the parietes of the chest."

"If there be only a slight increase in the quantity of blood within the heart, such additional stimulus by increasing the vigor of the heart's movements, may along with the elastic quality of the fibro-cartilaginous portion of its structure, which is placed at the roots of the large vessels, be alone sufficient to equalize the circulation. But if the increased supply of blood to the heart be so considerable that the surplus quantity cannot be received within its cavities, the lungs are then required to lend their assistance."—"The pulmonary vessels being imbedded in a soft and yielding substance, are susceptible of various degrees of distension, so that they readily give way for the reception of any surplus quantity, whether of venous or of arterial blood, and retain it until it can be received within the heart."

But whilst the pulmo-cardiac function is in the opinion of Dr. W. employed to relieve the heart of any surplus quantity of blood which it cannot receive into its cavities, he ascribes to the subcutaneous veins, which being placed externally to the fascias are not affected by the action of the muscles, the office of relieving the pulmonary vessels of any superabundant blood which they are not capable of receiving without interruption to the great function of respiration.

The chain of reasoning employed by Dr. W. in sustaining the peculiar views in relation to the circulation of which a hasty sketch has been given above, is extremely plausible, if not entirely conclusive—while the illustrations he introduces from various well known physiological and pathological phenomena render these preliminary observations to his proposed treatise on the diseases of the heart and their treatment one of an extremely interesting character.

D. F. C.

ARTICLE XVII.—*Isagoge in Doctrinam Morborum Chronicorum.* Auctore GER. CONV. BERN. SURINGAR, Medicinæ, Chirurgiæ et artis obstetriciæ, Doctore, et medicinæ practicæ in Schola Clinica et in illustri Amstelodamensium Athenæo, Professore. 8vo. 2 vols. pp. 210—250. Amsterdam, 1837.

Introduction to the Study of Chronic Diseases. By G. C. B. SURINGAR, M. D. Professor of the practice of medicine in the Clinical School and Athenæum of Amsterdam.

UNDER the denomination of chronic diseases, the author of these volumes comprises all those affections of which neither acute inflammation nor fever forms a part of the essential or prominent phenomena. Among these diseases are included, as will be perceived, some of the most important to which the human frame is subject, and with the pathology and treatment of which, notwithstanding the very close attention that has been paid to their investigation, more especially of late years, we are still but very imperfectly acquainted.

To furnish to the student a concise manual of the general facts connected with this interesting and important class of maladies appears to have been the leading object of Professor Suringar in the preparation of the volumes before us. Considered in this light, deficient as they are in many particulars, they constitute certainly a very useful work—forming an excellent introduction to the study of those more extensive treatises on the subjects of which they treat, for which we are indebted to the industry and talents of some of the most distinguished members of our profession.

Professor Suringar divides the chronic diseases into two classes; namely, 1, those of organic life; and 2, those of animal life. Each of these classes is subdivided into three sections.

The sections of class I. embrace

1. Those chronic affections attended with lesions of the blood-vessels and of the blood. Chronic congestion and inflammation, hæmorrhage, chlorosis, oyaæmia, scurvy, purpura hæmorrhagica, ulous noma.

2. The chronic affections of the digestive, respiratory, secretory, excretory, and nutritive organs.

3. The chronic affections of the reproductive organs.

The sections of class II. embrace

1. The chronic affections of the apparatus of motion. Gout, rheumatism.

2. The chronic affections of the organs of sensation. Hypochondriasis, hysteria—the neuralgia—the lesions of the external senses—the various spasmodic and convulsive affections—atony—paralysis—apoplexy—asphyxia.

3. The affections of the mind, or vesaniæ.

In his brief sketch of the symptoms, diagnosis, causes, and treatment of the several chronic affections embraced in the foregoing classification, the author has, in general, exhibited sufficient clearness and accuracy. He has evidently collated with care the more recent observations in relation to their pathology, and is familiar with the improvements which a more intimate acquaintance with the true character of these diseases, has been the means of introducing in reference to their therapeutics. He has, nevertheless, not unfrequently adopted the statements and opinions of the older writers, that subsequent and more extended observations have shown to be erroneous, or at least, of doubtful authority. To the history of each disease is appended a short list of the best writers, who have treated of it, with the title of their works, which, though incomplete, is not without its value.

There is no part of the work of Professor Suringar which calls for any particular notice, or which would warrant a formal review. The chief merit of an elementary treatise, such as it alone professes to be, consists in its presenting a well defined and correct outline of the subjects of which it treats, leaving to the student, the labour of filling up that outline with the materials subsequently derived from the various sources placed within his reach. This particular merit the volume before us possesses, and we feel a pleasure in recommending it as a useful introduction to the study of those affections to which the author has extended the term chronic.

D. F. C.

ARTICLE XVIII. *Annual Report of the Interments in the city and county of New York for the Year 1838, with accompanying Remarks.* By HENRY G. DUNNELL, City Inspector. New York, 1839.

THIS little pamphlet of some twenty pages, reflects great credit upon Dr. Dunnell for the ingenuity displayed in exhibiting the annual mortality of a large population in such a manner as to show at a glance many of the most interesting details and results, to obtain which from the ordinary bills of mortality would have been in many cases absolutely impossible, and in others a matter of no little calculation. The tabular form exhibits the number of deaths from each particular disease or source of mortality, with the ages, sex, colour and place of nativity of the deceased. The diseases are classified beginning with "*Diseases of the Brain and Nervous System*," and proceeding successively through the list. The total mortality reported from the first of January to the last day of December, 1838, is 8053, of which there were of white males 4090, females 3287; black males 336, females 340. We subjoin Dr. Dunnell's "*Remarks*," which will be found highly interesting by those who take an interest in such statistical subjects. "By this report it will be seen that the deaths in 1838 were 679 less than in 1837. Precisely the increase of 1837 over 1836.

"It may be well, for the gratification of those who have not the time or taste to enter into the investigation, to subjoin a running commentary upon some of the details herein presented.

"There are several interesting results to be gleaned from the precise and peculiar mode of arranging these tables, and which could not be shown by any other method.

"Leaving others to account for the causes, while the facts are simply placed before them, I will premise that, while the total of deaths has been 679 less, the variation in prevalence of different diseases has been immense; from a decreased mortality of 1654 upon some, to an increase of others of 1909.

"The decrease has been chiefly upon the following diseases, viz: of Scarlet Fever, 322; Typhus, 234; Consumption, 233; Convulsions, 178; Measles, 159; Small Pox, 79; Fever, 74; Teething, 96; Inflammation of the Chest, 40; Diarrhoea, 30; Drunkenness and Delirium Tremens, 31; Childbed, and Puerperal Fever, 24; Dropsy, 19; Bleeding, 12; Mortification, 10; Old Age, 8; and Epilepsy, 5; and 28 less were drowned.

"Of the diseases that have increased, the following stand most conspicuous: of Cholera Infantum, 184. More deaths of this disease occurred this year than ever before, with the single exception of the cholera year, 1834, when it was only 38 greater. In the year 1832, it was 103 less than in this. The increase of Marasmus is 178; Hooping cough, 156; Unknown, 102; Apoplexy, 53; Croup, 31; Remittent Fever, 28; drinking cold water, 20; Malformation, 31; Organic disease of Heart, 18; Bleeding from Lungs, 13; Dropsy of Chest, 13; Scrofula, 12; while of casualties, 12 more occurred, and 8 more were killed or murdered.

"The increase of Apoplexy, Unknown and drinking cold water, occurred chiefly during the extremely warm part of last summer.

"The number of Still Born and Premature is precisely the same as last year. There is a curious circumstance connected with this casualty that deserves a remark; that is, the great disproportion of white males to white females, and which does not take place between the sexes of the blacks.

"The greater fatality of male life in the white race commences before birth, and continues throughout the first year of existence. This year almost 51 out of every 100 died before reaching 5 years of existence, of whom over 25 were white males, and 22 females—the rest blacks. This inequality does not continue so great after passing the year; there being but trifling variation, (although the males exceed,) between 1 and 2—2 and 5—5 and 10, until between 10 and 20, females predominate; between 20 and 30 they are nearly the same; but, between 30 and 50, even to 60, the males are almost double in number to females. Between 60 and 70, they vary a trifle; between 70 and 80, the females outnumber the males, but from 80 upwards they are equal.

"Throughout the whole series there is a total excess of male deaths, of nearly 10 per cent., and this cannot arise from exposure or casualty alone. There is not a disease of childhood, except Whooping Cough and Measles, in which the male deaths do not preponderate. The same thing occurs with few exceptions, at the other periods of life, excluding the peculiar diseases of females, and old age. Of casualties of all kinds, the males exceed females only 148.

"According to the last census, the female population was not 5 per cent. greater than the male. This constant loss of male population (which, taking the whole series embraced in my last year's report, of 32 years past, has been still greater, having been nearly 12 per cent.,) is in some way or another supplied, or, inevitably, the male race would eventually become extinct. It is for the purpose of ascertaining the facts, that a register of births is desirable.

"It is singular, in regard to the deaths of the coloured population, that the males and females differ so little; the coloured females exceed the males only one.

"Of those diseases so fatal under the year some of them are fatal within a few days of birth. Of Convulsions 638 died—501 of them under the year; but 159 of them were not 7 days old; between that and 21 days, 177 died; between that and 2 months, 79; and 28 between that and 3 months, leaving but 118 to divide between the remaining three fourths of the year. Of Malformation and Premature, 77 died under 20 days.

"I have placed in the table, on a line with the sex and age, the nativity of the

persons; in order, if possible, to show the effect, if any, this may have upon disease. By a careful examination of which it will be seen, that of Apoplexy 49 were natives; and 104 Europeans; of Palsy, Epilepsy and Insanity, one half of the males were Europeans, and of Bleeding from the Lungs, they exceed the natives. Of Consumption, 1225, there were natives 665, and Europeans 539—11 of adjoining countries, and 10 unknown. The deaths by this disease, excluding casualties of all kinds, is 1 out of 5 of the whole; of which 1 out of 9,293 are white natives, 1 out of 4,566 blacks, and 1 out of 2,877 Europeans. Of Inflammation of the Stomach 28 were native and 36 Europeans. Organic diseases of the Heart, 27 natives and 28 Europeans. Of Child bed and Puerperal Fever, 16 natives to 21 Europeans. Of Intemperance and Delirium Tremens, 40 natives to 55. Suicides, 23 natives to 19. 41 natives and 44 Europeans died of casualties. Out of 22 deaths from drinking cold water, 19 were Europeans; and of Old Age 57 natives, 54 Europeans, and 3 from the adjoining British provinces.

"I have divided Europe into different sections in the tables, because of the greater number from some sections; they are all included in these calculations.

"It would tend very materially to an insight into these matters, if the census gave any clue to the proportion of native population of this city; but as it does not, much must be left to conjecture.

"I have made no estimate of the deaths proportioned to the population; because it will necessarily be very unsatisfactory until an accurate register is kept, based upon the deaths, and not upon the interments only, in this city.

"The tables are as extensive and minute as can be made; unless the various occupations of the individuals could be obtained—a thing impracticable under the present law.

"The novel plan of arranging these tables, introduced for the first time last year, has, it will be perceived, been carried into still greater minutiae." G. E.

ARTICLE XIX. *De Fungo Genu nec non de Tuberculis in hoc morbo inventis. Dissertatio, quam pro Summis in Medicina et Chirurgia honoribus rite capessendis conscripta ac publice defendit FRANC. JOSEPHUS LEDERLE, Badensis. Anno, MDCCCXXXVIII. 8vo. pp. 81. Petropoli, 1838.*

An Inaugural Dissertation on Fungus of the Knee and on the Tubercles, which occur in that disease. By F. J. LEDERLE, of Baden.

THE disease denominated by the author, after several of the older surgical writers, fungus of the knee, is that now better known by the name of white swelling. In relation to the history, the symptoms, the predisposing and exciting causes and the treatment of this affection, he has availed himself of the observations recorded by the best writers, without adding to them, however, any thing of importance.

In regard to the pathology of the disease, so far at least as regards its immediate cause, or the nature of the changes in the tissues of the knee joint, in which it consists, but little satisfactory is known, and the author's attempts to throw light upon this important particular are very far from successful. He denominates the disease a dynamico-vegetative pseudoplasma of the synovial membrane—a specific irritative-congestive affection of the nerves and vessels of the joint, giving rise to the secretion into the fibrous tissues surrounding the knee, of a peculiar viscid fluid, and occurring in persons where there already exists a latent condition of the synovial membrane predisposing it to take on this specific irritation. A definition which leaves us as much in the dark as ever as to the pathology of the disease, and leads to far less beneficial results in reference to its prevention and cure, than would a minute and careful description of its phenomena—the various causes, predisposing and exciting, to which it may be referred, and the lesions observed after death in the several tissues of the parts in which it is seated.

"There are several interesting results to be derived from this mode of arranging these tables, and the method.

"Leaving others to account for the variation in prevalence of the disease, I will premise the variation in prevalence of decreased mortality of

"The decrease in mortality of Typhus, 323; Typhus, 79; Fever, 79; Drunkenness, 79; Dropsy, 19; 28 less were

"Of the cases of Cholera ever before only 2 of M 31; di 1'

are the observations of the author, who treats, with that peculiar accuracy, the various morbid conditions of the system. Even on this point, however, he has been very full and digested of the facts in
D. F. C.

of the French, with many additions. By L. DESLANDES, M. D., &c. Translated from the French, with many additions. 12mo. pp. 252. Boston, 1838.

among the numerous works that have appeared on the subjects treated of in the volume before us, we have as yet met with no one in which is presented a more complete and carefully collated facts, tending to show conclusively the real morbid influence upon the different portions of the organism of unnatural excitations of the sexual organs. We have, it is true, the histories, almost without number, of cases of various forms of disease, occurring in individuals of both sexes, who were addicted to onanism or other kindred excesses; but the facts of these cases have either been badly observed or carelessly detailed, for they afford us no aid in determining how far the relations were warranted in attributing all the morbid phenomena by which they were attended to the vicious practices alluded to.

It may be received, we are perfectly aware, as a pathological axiom, that premature and excessive excitement of any of our organs will, sooner or later, produce disease in that organ as well as in others with which it is closely related. But the point upon which we wish to be informed is, what are the lesions directly attributable to premature and excessive excitement of the genital organs in the two sexes? A careful investigation of this point will, we are convinced, show that in some instances, at least, the most important diseases that are so generally attributed to onanism, &c., result from the same morbid condition of the organism upon which the tendency itself to onanism and other venereal excesses depend. This is not the proper place to adduce the reasons which have led us to this conclusion, nor to enter into a more extended examination of the subject in any of its bearings. A perusal of the work before us has convinced us, however, that it is one but little understood, and that it is still deserving of a more close investigation, to the intent of deducing in relation to it accurate views as well hygienic as pathological.

The treatise of M. Deslandes is certainly one of the best that has appeared on the diseases produced by onanism, &c. The numerous facts it contains, nevertheless, do not appear to us to be well arranged, nor the inferences deduced from them to be in every instance strictly legitimate. Its chief merit consists in its presenting a synopsis of nearly all the leading facts recorded by the different writers, who have treated, either professedly or incidentally, of the effects of premature unnatural excitement of the sexual organs. Much good sense and many judicious directions will be found in the second part, which treats of the rules, preventive and remedial, relative to venereal excesses.

We have not compared the translation before us with the original French; it appears, generally speaking, however, to be executed with sufficient accuracy. The "many additions," noticed in the title page, are embodied in the work, without any marks sufficiently to distinguish them from the text of the author—a practice which cannot be too severely censured.

D. F. C.

- ARTICLE XXI.—*A Treatise on the Diseases of the Eye, and its Appendages.* By RICHARD MIDDLEMORE, M. R. C. S., Surgeon to the Birmingham Eye Infirmary. London, 1835: 2 vols. 8vo. pp. 800 and 844.
- Traité de l'Ophthalmie, la Cataracte et l'Amaurose, pour servir de supplément au Traité des Maladies des Yeux de Weller.* Par J. SICHÉL, M. D. et C. &c. &c. Paris, 1837: pp. 750, 8vo. avec 4 planches colorées.
- Manuel Pratique d'Ophthalmologie, au Traité des Maladies des Yeux.* Par VICTOR STOEER, M. D. &c. Bruxelles, 1837: pp. 389, 12mo. planches 3.
- The Principles and Practice of Ophthalmic Surgery. Comprising the Anatomy, Physiology, and Pathology of the Eye, with the Treatment of its diseases.* By BENJAMIN TRAVERS, Esq., F. R. S. &c., and Joseph Henry Green, Esq., F. R. S. &c. &c. Edited by ALEXANDER COOPER LEE. London, 1839: pp. 242, 12mo.
- Cours d'Ophthalmologie, au Traité complet des Maladies de l'œil, Professeé publiquement à l'Ecole pratique de Médecine de Paris.* Par M. ROGNETTA, D. Med. et C. &c. &c. Paris, 1839: pp. 468, 8vo.
- Lectures on Diseases of the Eye.* By JOHN MORGAN, F. L. S., Surgeon to Guy's Hospital, and Lecturer on Surgery, at that Institution. Illustrated by 18 coloured plates. London: 1839. pp. 221.

THE numerous contributions which have been made within the last few years to the literature of Ophthalmic Surgery, manifest an increased attention to that department of our science which cannot fail to be attended by the happiest results. Not only must it be productive of a more general and better acquaintance with the diseases of one of our most important organs, but also contribute to the advance of Pathology and Therapeutics in general; for the superficial position of some of the tissues of the eye and the transparency of others affords opportunities for observing morbid processes and the influence of remedies upon them, which cannot be obtained for the study of the diseases of the same tissues in other parts of the body.

The first work in our list, that of Mr. MIDDLEMORE is an exceedingly elaborate one, and constitutes in itself, almost a complete library of Ophthalmology. If less rich in the results of personal experience than the Treatise of Mr. Lawrence, it is far more comprehensive, and must be considered as entitled to the first rank among the standard works of authority and reference.

The Treatise of Dr. SICHÉL, a German for some years residing in Paris, is limited to the consideration of inflammations of the different tissues of the eye, and to cataract and amaurosis. These affections, are, however, treated of in great detail, and in a very able manner. Its principal fault is the disposition which the author indulges for the split-hair divisions and pure abstractions, characteristic of German science.

The manual of Dr. STOEER is ample in its scope, embracing an account of the pathology and treatment of all the affections of the Eye and its appendages, but presented in a very compendious manner. To nearly every section there is a select bibliography, furnishing a reference to the best treatises and papers on the disease of which it treats. It is the best compend on the diseases of the eye that we have met with.

The work edited by Mr. LEE covers a wider field than any of the others we have noticed, professing to describe the Anatomy, Physiology and Pathology of the Eye and its appendages with the Treatment of its diseases. As all this is comprised in 242 duodecimo pages, it will be readily conceived that the subjects are treated of in mere outline. The best part of the work is that devoted to the Physiology of the Eye and its appendages. This is exceedingly interesting and may be read with advantage. The concluding part, that on the Pathology and Treatment of diseases of the Eye and its appendages, is valueless; how indeed could it be otherwise when it is attempted to discuss so extensive a subject within the limits of one hundred duodecimo pages.

The Treatise of Dr. ROGNETTA is characterised by extensive reading and

research. The author seems perfectly familiar with the writings of the Italian, French, and English writers on Ophthalmic Surgery, and has given us a good abstract of their opinions. These are presented in the most concise language, and as the work is closely printed, and in small type, the author has compressed within narrow limits much useful information. A precise knowledge of the virtues of the remedies made use of in the treatment of diseases of the eyes, being, the author justly observes, essential, and this subject having been hitherto much neglected, he has prefixed to his work the result of his studies relative to the therapeutic powers of the belladonna, strychnine and mercurial preparations.

The lectures of Mr. Morgan, the author informs us in his preface, are published at the request of his pupils, and not from any wish on his part to appear before the profession and the public, as an author of what will, he fears, be considered by them as a very imperfect work, on the subject of Ophthalmic Surgery generally. "Neither as a lecturer nor as an author," he observes, "do I put myself forward as a competitor for professional fame and distinction with those who have preceded me as the public instructors of their students on the science here treated of, and as advocates for the connection of Ophthalmic and general Surgery, but having been repeatedly urged, not only in private but publicly, by so many of my class to supply them by publishing my lectures, with that, which they considered would be a short text book for their studies at Guy's Hospital Eye Infirmary, I now do so in compliance with their wishes, in the hope of affording them a permanent and perfect reminiscence of those instructions, which I have spent so many proud and grateful hours in offering them. I cannot refuse to take all the chances of good or evil which may await me, in thus acceding to the wishes of my young friends, although laying myself open, as I doubt not I am now doing, to the censure of many, who, perhaps from various causes may have expected something better than my present production.

"My object has been to describe, concisely and clearly, the more common and the more important diseases to which the eye is subjected, with what experience has taught me to be the best general treatment, and to illustrate, as much as possible, the analogy between diseases of the eye and those of other parts of the body."

It would be manifestly unjust to try a work by a higher standard than that which the author proposes for himself, and it may, therefore, be sufficient praise to award to Mr. Morgan the merit of having accomplished what he has designed—to put forth a work which may serve as a short text book for students. His lectures have no claim to higher merit.

There is one object which Mr. Morgan has had too constantly in view—the desire to illustrate, as much as possible, the analogy between diseases of the eye and those of other parts of the body. This, though a very legitimate and praiseworthy design, has, we conceive, exerted an injurious influence over a portion of his therapeutics. From the facilities afforded for the study of the diseases of the eye, and the influence of remedial agents upon them, to which we have already alluded, the treatment of ocular inflammation is in many respects in advance of the treatment of this affection in similar tissues in other parts of the body, as laid down in the works on general surgery. But Mr. Morgan, instead of making use of the lights thus obtained to illuminate the obscure points in the treatment of inflammation of parts concealed from view, has plunged the former in the mists which involve the latter; and, consequently does not employ many remedies which the fullest experience has shown to be often the most effectual and prompt for the cure of inflammations of the eye.

ARTICLE XXII. *Medical Lexicon. A New Dictionary of Medical Science, containing a concise Account of the various Subjects and Terms; with a Vocabulary of Synonymes in Different Languages, and Formulas for various Official and Empirical Preparations, &c.* 2d edition, with numerous modifications and additions. By ROSELY DUNGLISON, M. D., M. A., P. S., &c. Philadelphia: Lea & Blanchard, 1839. pp. 821, 8vo.

THE merits of this work are already well known to the profession, the first edition having been published several years since. It may be sufficient therefore to state, that the present edition is a greatly improved one. It contains "many hundred terms more than the first," as the author informs us in his preface, and has experienced numerous additions and modifications which add much to its utility. We trust that the circulation of the work will be such as, in some measure, to compensate the author for the ungrateful toil of compilation.

ARTICLE XXIII. *Transactions of the Medical Society of the State of New York, Vol. iv. Part 2.* Albany: 1839. pp. 56, 8vo.

Journal of the Proceedings of the Medical Convention of Ohio, at its Third Session, begun and held in the City of Cleveland, on the 14th and 15th days of May, 1839. Cleveland: 1839. pp. 48, 8vo.

Minutes of the Medical Society of Tennessee, at the Tenth Annual Meeting, held in Nashville, May, 1839. Columbia: 1839. pp. 44, 8vo.

Proceedings of the President and Fellows of the Connecticut Medical Society in Convention, May, 1839, with a List of the Members of the Society. Hartford: 1839. pp. 16, 8vo.

THESE four publications possess peculiar interest from the circumstance of their having been issued nearly simultaneously, from the almost extreme points of the Union, and bearing evidence that every where the profession are labouring with zeal for the advancement of medical science.

The present part of the Transactions of the Medical Society of New York, is not less valuable than the preceding ones. It contains the Annual Address of the President, Dr. LAURENS HULL; two Addresses, by Dr. A. CHURCH, before the Tompkins County Medical Society—one on Spinal Disease—the other on Quackery; an Address before the same Society on the Objects, Ends, and Duties of Medical Societies, by Dr. DANIEL D. PAGE; a Translation, by Dr. H. B. WENSTER, of Professor Caspar's Essay on Suicide; and Statistics of the Medical Colleges in the United States, by T. R. BECK, M. D. To these are appended an abstract of the Proceedings of the Society at its Annual Session in February last, and some matters mainly of local interest.

The only article we have space to notice particularly is that of Dr. CHURCH on Quackery. This evil seems to be the favourite topic for medical discourses, and, considering the extent to which it pervades the country, this cannot excite our surprise. Its causes, and the sufferings it inflicts, have been fully set forth, and ingenuity has been exhausted almost in devising means for putting an end to it.—But hitherto in vain. Quackery, we fear, finds in the weaknesses of the human mind too favourable a soil for its growth ever to be effectually checked, much less for it to be wholly rooted out of society. The following very sensible suggestions, nevertheless, of Dr. Church, for lessening its evils, if adopted, would at least benefit the community, and add greatly to the respectability of our profession, even if they failed in accomplishing the object for which they are proposed.

"We have seen," he observes, "how futile is legislation against that class of men denominated quacks. They have too strong a hold on the sympathies of a large class of the community—most of them ignorant to be sure, but many of them respectable, and even influential. It has only served to bring these sympathies into active exercise, and cause them to be looked upon as an oppressed and persecuted set of men; as men who are useful in their vocation: and instead of

creating a distrust of them, it has manifestly operated to increase the number and devotedness of their adherents. It is, therefore, my belief that if such a class was unknown in law, there would be fewer of them.

"Instead then of petitioning our Legislature to pass laws restraining these men, let us petition them to pass such a law as would be calculated to lessen materially the diseases that more commonly fall into their hands. And this, I think, may be done by requiring a more thorough course of preparation on the part of the physician, before he is allowed to practice on his own responsibility.

"Instead then of the present meagre requisitions of the law, is it not advisable to enlarge them in regard to preparatory study, and place them on a footing with those of the profession of law? I can see no reason why the knowledge of a medical practitioner should not be as extensive, his philosophical researches as profound, and his attainments in every respect as great, as those of any other professional man. I am sure, no one acquainted with the duties of our profession, will say that the difficulties or importance of arriving at just conclusions, are less in ours than either of the other professions. It is ignorance, gross ignorance on the part of our legislators, that has thus placed our profession in the back ground. I do not know but many would think my ideas bordering on the extravagant in regard to the subject of preparatory education, but it appears to me, that either a regular course of classical studies in any of our colleges, or at least four years devoted to the various departments of literature and philosophy, is not too much to require of a young man previous to the commencement of professional study. In the course of this time, if he has exercised proper diligence, and that rightly directed, he will have obtained a respectable acquaintance with literature, and become tolerably well grounded in the elements of the various departments of philosophy: his mind will have acquired such a degree of discipline, that he can commence and pursue, to good advantage, the study of any science; he can far outstrip another of equal natural abilities who has been deprived of these advantages. If, after enjoying these advantages, he were to spend three years in the study of medicine, and at the end of that time spend one year as a house pupil in a hospital, or, what may perhaps be better, in practice, under the direction and responsibility of a judicious practitioner of experience, his education would be as nearly complete as could be reasonably demanded; and he might set out on his professional career with confidence in his ability to meet most of the emergencies of the profession. He would be placed above the necessity of resorting to those little shifts to conceal his ignorance, to which men of inferior attainments are so constantly obliged to resort, and to do which, as well as to wheedle themselves into the good graces of the nurses and old women, draws so strongly on their mental resources as to leave them no room for professional improvement. This, gentlemen, is no fancy sketch. It is drawn from life, and this state of things will exist until our laws are so framed as to show young men that our profession was designed as well to benefit mankind as to afford them the means of an honourable livelihood. Our profession has become numerous far beyond the wants of the community, and this in itself has a tendency to retard the advancement of medical science. Not but what there should be a sufficient number to excite an honourable competition, but when a profession becomes so numerous, as that a large proportion must be idle a considerable part of the time, it follows that they do not have opportunity to be in the habit of constant observation of diseases, which is necessary to acquire the tact of experience. By requiring a suitable preparation before commencing professional study, and extending the time of professional study itself, or by requiring some time spent in actual practice, before granting licenses and diplomas, a considerable proportion would be deterred from entering the profession, who now do so because it is the shortest road, and least expensive, to any kind of employment above that of a common labourer."

The Journal of the Medical Convention of Ohio contains some matter of great value, especially the address of the President, Dr. S. P. HILDRETH, "on the climate and early history of the diseases in Ohio." In this interesting paper the author treats of 1st, the topography and primitive aspect of the country on

the Ohio river; 3d, the climate and its changes from the effects of cultivation; 3d, the diseases of the aborigines; 4th, the diseases of the first white settlers, and early epidemics; 5th, the treatment of diseases thirty years since; 6th, recent epidemics; 7th, diseases common to this climate, with the modifications which have taken place from changes in diet, fashions, habits, &c.

The Minutes of the Medical Society of Tennessee, in addition to an account of their annual meeting, contain an address by Dr. A. H. BUCHANAN, of Columbia, on quackery; also, a very interesting case by the same, illustrative of the etiology of spontaneous amputation of the limbs of the fetus in utero; and some extracts from an address by F. Smith, M. D.

The address of Dr. Buchanan is well written, and contains some useful information. The measures he wishes to be adopted, for the protection of the people from imposition, are "rigid legislative enactments." The case will be found in another department of this Number. As to Dr. SMITH's paper, we could not do justice to it without giving it entire, as we must confess that his aim and meaning are not discoverable by our limited intellect—a category in which we shrewdly suspect the author himself to be included.

The proceedings of the Connecticut Medical Society are of merely local interest.

ARTICLE XXIV. *On the Methods of Acquiring Knowledge. An Introductory Lecture to the Course of the Institutes of Medicine, for the Session 1838-39. Delivered in the University of Pennsylvania, Nov. 6. 1838.* By SAMUEL JACKSON. Philadelphia: 1838. pp. 32, 8vo.

Valedictory Address to the Students in Medicine of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of the University of New York. Delivered Feb. 28, 1839. By JOHN B. BACK, M. D., Prof. Mat. Med. and Med. Juris. New York: 1839. pp. 24, 8vo.

An Address delivered to the Students of the Louisville Medical Institute, in the presence of the citizens of the place, at the commencement of the Second Session of the Institute, Nov. 13. 1838. By JOSHUA B. FLINT, M. D., Professor of Surgery. Louisville, Ken.: 1838. pp. 31, 8vo.

An Annual Address to the Candidates for Degrees and Licences in the Medical Institution of Yale College, Feb. 26. 1839. By THOMAS MINER, M. D., Member of the Board of Examination, and late President of the Connecticut Medical Society. Published at the request of the Class. New Haven: 1839. pp. 20, 8vo.

An Address delivered to the Graduates of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, April 23, 1839. By JOSEPH CARSON, M. D. Prof. Mat. Med. and Pharm. Philadelphia: 1839. pp. 16, 8vo.

THESE addresses are all appropriate to the occasions on which they were delivered, and creditable to their authors.

The lecture of Professor JACKSON is of a high order of merit. It bears the impress of the author's richly stored and philosophical mind, and exhibits a depth of reflection and a freshness and originality in the views rarely met with in productions of its class.

The different methods, with their respective advantages and defects, by which knowledge is acquired and rendered accurate; by which sound and judicious opinions are formed; by which truth is to be sifted and separated from error; are clearly set forth, and justly estimated.

Professor BACK's valedictory is an exceedingly well written and judicious address, and contains sound advice relative to the means by which professional eminence may be promoted.

Professor FLINT discusses the objects of the medical profession; the personal qualities and accomplishments calculated to secure eminence therein, and some of the sources and aids of medical improvement during the period of pupillage and afterwards, in a manner which denotes a facility at sketching, a sprightly imagination, and considerable talent for sarcasm. His pictures of French

medicine, and particularly of French surgery, are clever fancy sketches; but that it was judicious to exhibit them to a miscellaneous audience and to young students, who are not always competent to distinguish badinage from sober earnest, and might mistake these caricatures for portraits, is to say the least doubtful.

The principal duties that devolve on those who desire to rise to eminence in the profession are inculcated by Dr. MINER, in a plain and sensible manner. With much to praise, there is, however, one passage to which we regret to say exception may be taken. Whatever may be thought of the accuracy of the following laudatory notice, it can hardly be considered to be in the best taste.

"Nothing is more common than to overlook and undervalue the high advantages which we enjoy. In this point of view, I have often thought that this medical institution has not been sufficiently appreciated, either by the medical profession or the public. I feel confident in boldly asserting, that the means for obtaining a thorough medical education, in probably all its branches, are fully equal to those of any other school in the country. The opportunities for acquiring a minute knowledge of anatomy are as good, and the means are furnished at as moderate an expense, as at any other place. Our course of chemistry is allowed to be unrivalled. Our courses upon surgery, and upon theory and practice, will respectably compare with any others. Upon one important branch we are decidedly superior to all our cotemporaries. In the study of indigenous *materia medica*, which was so happily begun by the first professor, who may be considered as the founder of this branch of *materia medica*, and which has been continued by his successor, we are decidedly without a rival, and are probably half a century in advance of the age. It is probable that more indigenous articles are regularly employed by those who have been educated in this school, or have been connected with it, and their nature is better understood, than by all the other physicians of the United States, or of the world. In this respect, justice has never been half done to this institution, either at home or abroad."

Professor CARSON'S address is an exceedingly neat one, and the topics discussed are judiciously selected. Correct views are presented of the science of pharmacy, the objects which the pharmacist should strive to attain, the means he should employ, and the motives by which he should be governed.

ARTICLE XXV. *Outlines on Physiology; with an Appendix on Phrenology.* By P. M. ROGET, M. D. &c. First American edition, revised, with numerous notes. Philadelphia: 1839. pp. 516, 8vo.

THE present volume is made up of the two articles "Physiology" and "Phrenology," contained in the last edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*.

The outlines present a very interesting, and, in most particulars, accurate sketch of the present condition of physiology; which may be placed, with great propriety, in the hands of the student, as an introduction to the more extensive and elaborate treatises, with the contents of which he will be required subsequently to make himself acquainted.

Individuals not of the medical profession, who may desire to acquire a general knowledge of physiology, will also find the outlines of Dr. Roget to be very well adapted for their use.

The notes appended to the present edition are judicious and useful; supplying several omissions of the author, correcting some of the particulars which, in the opinion of the American editor, were either erroneous or doubtful, and furnishing references to works from which more ample information may be obtained.

Of the "Appendix on Phrenology" we have little to say—that it is not considered by phrenologists either a fair or conclusive refutation of their peculiar views ought to be borne in mind by the reader. As we are convinced that truth will ultimately be the gainer, by every species of attack she may sustain—inasmuch as men's minds are often in this manner instigated to her investigation—the Appendix to these outlines, however much we may differ from some of the views there set forth, does not deter us from recommending warmly the work to the perusal of all interested in the study of physiology. D. F. C.

SUMMARY

OF THE

IMPROVEMENTS AND DISCOVERIES IN THE MEDICAL SCIENCES.

GENERAL ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY.

I. Case of Anæsthesia (Loss of Sensation) in the course of distribution of the Fifth Nerve, with Remarks. By Dr. ROMBERG of Berlin.—It is well known how few have been the instances of pathological conditions of the fifth nerve which have been recorded, compared with the numberless cases of affections of the N. facialis, since Sir C. Bell's work has given to this branch of pathology so much interest. It must be admitted, however, that diseases of the fifth pair furnish more satisfactory evidence of the real nature of their function than can be obtained by means of vivisections. The following is a case of interest, both with regard to the physiological character of this nerve and the diagnosis of its abnormal conditions:

A widow, aged forty-two, fell down stairs backwards, and received a violent blow on the occiput. A twelvemonth afterwards her catamenia ceased. From this time she was subject to attacks of sneezing, which increased so much, both in violence and duration, that the slightest circumstance provoked the convulsions, and her sleep was continually disturbed by them. The examination of the nostrils afforded no clue to the cause of this condition, and I, therefore, sought to account for it in the injury done to the head, implicating, possibly, the nasal filaments of the fifth nerve. On investigating the regions to which the first and second branches of the fifth are distributed, I found the sensibility undiminished, but upon arriving at the region of the third branch, I found complete anæsthesia in its whole extent. I will here detail the symptoms, as I have repeatedly demonstrated them to my pupils, and likewise in the presence of Prof. Müller and other friends. I always took the precaution of effectually binding the patient's eyes, which I deem to be necessary in such investigations, in order to guard as much against simulation as to prevent the patient being misled by the sight of the instrument used.

The left half of the under lip, both on its external and internal surface, and the left half of the chin, did not betray the least sensibility on being pricked with a sharp vaccinating needle; this was likewise the case with the left ear and the meatus externus. The same parts were insensible to the flame of a taper. The insensibility extended upwards to the left temple, bordering on the hairy scalp, and including the tongue also. There was no pain caused by pricking, nor was there perception of heat or cold on the side, point, or surface of the tongue on this side.

On the right side of the head all these parts were in full possession of their sensibility, and indeed all the other sensitive nerves of the left side preserved their integrity, so that the limits of the distribution of the third branch of the fifth could be accurately marked out by means of pricking the skin. If the needle came in contact with the skin of the temples towards the forehead, the

patient gave immediate signs of pain, from the presence of branches of the frontalis: the same result ensued on injuring the integuments covering the horizontal portion of the lower jaw, from the presence of the subcutaneous branches of the third cervical nerve.

Besides the loss of sensation, with reference both to heat and cold and mechanical injury, which the tongue displayed, I found that the sense of taste was obliterated. No kind of substance, fluid or solid, bitter or otherwise, produced the least impression on the left side, whilst on the right, they were discriminated with precision. I tried this experiment with various substances, as colocyth, various salts, acids, &c.

Notwithstanding this partial disturbance of the sensibility of the left side of the face, nothing of the sort existed in the motory function. Neither the expressive or mimical (*mimische*), nor the respiratory or masticatory motions were impaired. The same was the case with the masticatory and articulatory motions of the tongue. The nutrition of the left side was unimpaired; the dimensions, colour, and moisture of both sides being alike, and blood flowing with the same readiness, and ceasing equally soon on the left side as on the right.

From these premises I drew the following diagnosis: "The anæsthesia which extends throughout the distribution of the third branch of the portio major of the fifth, indicates an isolated affection of this nerve, and, indeed, a compression of its trunk, since the loss of sensibility has been unaccompanied throughout with painful sensation in the parts to which the nerve is distributed. The cause of the existing pressure must include the whole of the primitive filaments belonging to this subdivision of the nerve, and, consequently (in all probability), the trunk of the nerve itself, for there is an entire absence of sensibility in all the organs supplied by it; and, on the other hand, the immunity of the parts supplied by the remaining two branches of the fifth, prove that the pressure cannot be situated in the Gasserian ganglion, else there would be more or less implication of other parts in the anæsthesia; neither can the seat of pressure be external to the foramen ovale of the sphenoid bone; for from this point the motor and sensitive fibres of the third branch are in such close juxtaposition, that it would be impossible that one class of functions should be so completely annihilated and the other be left unimpaired, (it will be remembered that the masticatory motion of the left side was not weakened.) I am, therefore, led to assume the presence of a tumour, either of the dura mater or of the bone, so situated as to cause pressure on the third branch of the fifth nerve, previous to its passage out of the foramen ovale."

On the 19th March, the patient died of dropsy, and the body was brought for examination to the Anatomical Theatre, in Berlin. Previous to the section, I repeated my diagnosis to those present, viz., Prof. Müller and Drs. Henle, Schwann, and Philipp.

The investigation of the contents of the cranium, gave the following result: The surface of the brain was covered with a gelatinous, and more or less white, opaque exudation. A portion of the brain, of about the size of a walnut, situated on the inferior surface of the posterior lobe of the left hemisphere, and corresponding to the posterior horn of the lateral ventricle, was softened, but without any sign of vascular injection in the neighbourhood. In other respects both the brain and spinal cord were normal. The third branch of the fifth nerve, just at its point of entering the foramen ovale, was surrounded by a reddish vascular tissue, consisting partly of fibres and vesicles. Closer investigation showed it to be an exudation into or hypertrophy (*Wucherung*) of the neurilema, passing into the dura mater, in the direction of the origin of the nerve, and becoming gradually lost upon the neurilema, inclosing the nerve after its passage through the foramen ovale. The neurilema was thickened, and reddish throughout that portion which lies in the sphenoid bone, but becoming less so as it approached the spot where the ganglion oticum lies in contact with it. As far as the neurilema was altered in appearance, the nerve appeared to be thicker and firmer, and to possess a slight yellow color. The third branch of the Gasserian ganglion was the only portion of the nerve that had suffered any alteration. The

motor branch lay to the inside of the nerve, and joined it below the spot described. All the nerves supplying the buccinator, pterygoid, and temporal muscles were normal, as likewise those of the tongue and lower jaw, the quintus of the right side, and the glosso-pharyngeal nerve of both sides.

Remarks.—These observations could not have been made at a more opportune season than the present, when the controversy concerning the gustatory nerve engages so much the attention of physiologists. I think I shall not be presuming too much, if I consider this case as conclusive evidence of the truth of the theory which maintains that real gustatory fibres are at least contained within this branch.

I express myself thus in order to avoid the general but erroneous view, that this nerve is an aggregate of homogeneous filaments; for this case incontestably proves that sensitive and gustatory elements are included in it. Pathological facts are in this case of infinitely more value than experiments on animals; and this is true of all the perceptions of sense. In the experiments respecting the participation of the glosso-pharyngeus and lingualis in the sense of taste, neglect of this consideration led to erroneous conclusions. The sensitive functions of the tongue were limited to those of mere sensation and taste; and a third, one of considerable importance, was overlooked, although it is one that the most simple experiment may serve to establish. For instance, if the finger be passed over the point, edge, or middle of the tongue, nothing but ordinary sensation is excited; but as soon as we approach the papillæ vallatæ and the root of the tongue, the feeling of nausea is excited together with a sense of choking, a decided reflex action. It is in these papillæ, and also in the velum and other parts which when irritated give rise to the same sensations, that the filaments of the *nervus glosso-pharyngeus** are distributed. In most of the experiments made upon animals with reference to this circumstance,† it is stated that nausea and strangulation were excited in cases where the glosso-pharyngeus was uninjured; but I think it was incorrect to ascribe their production to the influence of taste. I consider that the greater abundance of the papillæ vallatæ has reference, in animals, to the instinct possessed by them, inasmuch as I consider the sensation of nausea, &c., to be of more importance in enabling them to discriminate between noxious and innocuous food than mere taste. The observations of Rudolph Wagner‡ seem to strengthen this opinion, for he shows that papillæ vallatæ appear to have constant reference to the alimentary instinct of the different mammalia in their form, number, size, and situation. I need not observe that I differ from him in attributing the function of taste to the glosso-pharyngeus.

From the reasons above stated, I do not hesitate in terming the glosso-pharyngeus the *nerve of alimentary instinct*. This, too, explains its uniform presence in all classes of animals, whilst the lingualis is wanting in birds.

Besides the specific sensitive function of the glosso-pharyngeus, its peculiar reflex action, above alluded to, is very deserving of attention. It is exceedingly interesting to observe how different are the reflex functions peculiar to contiguous organs, even when produced by the same stimulus. The irritation of the vagus in the glottis produces cough; in the fauces, the same nerve being irritated, excites the act of swallowing; the glosso-pharyngeus causes the phenomena we have described. A very instructive instance of this variety of reflex action is given by Marshall Hall, (Lectures, &c., p. 23,) where a person introduced a feather into the mouth in order to cause vomiting, by irritating the fauces, but passing it too far it became subject to the peculiar action of the

* The author terms the nerves frequently "*via*," thus, "*via glosso-pharyngea*" instead of *nervus glosso-pharyngeus*. His object is to avoid the apparent confounding several distinct kinds of filaments together, under a term which implies uniformity.—
TRANS.

† See Panizza and Valentini; *Repert. für Anatomie u. Physiol.* 1837. 2 Bd. 2 Abth'. S. 220.

‡ *Neu Notizen aus dem Gebiete der Natur u. Heilk.* No. 75.

œsophagus, and was drawn into the stomach. These reflex actions may be made use of as reagents in the investigation of the offices of sensible nerves; and as I lately found, whilst experimenting upon a horse, that irritation of the *nervus vagus* in the neck caused cough, so the irritation of the glosso-pharyngeus would, I doubt not, in all cases produce the sensation of choking.

The next important commentary that this case affords is the elucidation of the law of *isolated conduction* (*isolierte Leitung*) and *co-sensation*. The first of these laws insured the accuracy of the diagnosis, whilst the latter offers an explanation of the convulsive sneezing. For we can best comprehend the connection of the cause and effect, by supposing that this peculiar convulsive sneezing was produced through the radiation of the sensation, and transference of the irritation of the filaments of the third branch, to the nasal filaments of the first, (whether in the ganglion Gasseri or within the central organ I will not decide,) and by means of the reflex respiratory motion. The co-sensation in the cerebral end of the nasal twigs was so acute and the tension so considerable, that any the least stimulus gave rise to the sternutatory action, so that my experiments on the sensation of the face was often interrupted thereby.

We have hitherto only considered the case in its physiological characters, but it seems likewise in points of pathological interest; particularly of course with reference to the fifth pair of nerves, concerning which we know as yet so little.

In the hyperæsthesia of this nerve (*tic douloureux*), the confusion and unintelligibility of the writings on the subject afford sufficiently convincing proof how little is known respecting it, and the paralysis of the fifth was a complete *terra incognita*, first discovered by the genius of Bell. Since that time some few cases have been published, which serve to throw a brighter light upon the subject. The paralysis affects either the sensible or motor branches, or both at once. Simple means suffice to establish this. Further, it must have either a peripheral or central origin; and here I would observe, that the former has a more extended sphere than is usually ascribed to it. It has been a common error in pathology to view the aggregate of nervous fibres, as they leave the basis of the brain as the nervous root or origin of the nerve, and, consequently, to include their diseases, whilst in this part of their course, under the head of affections of the central organs. But a nerve must be considered as peripheral in every portion of it, from its earliest origin to its remote termination. Thus, the paralysis of the fifth is peripheral, whether its inducing cause be seated in the surface of the face, in the sphenoid bone, the ganglion Gasseri, or in the neighbourhood of the pons varolii. The real locality of the affected portion may be determined diagnostically. The more isolated the anæsthesia, the more peripheral is the cause.

Thus, when caused by the extraction of a molar tooth, the anæsthesia was confined to half of the lower lip, as in other cases it is limited to the ala nasi or the surface of the eye, &c. We may thus pursue diseases of the nerve in its course, until the loss of sensibility of the entire surface of the face supplied by it, combined with paralysis of the masticatory muscles, indicates an affection either of the ganglion Gasseri or the parts in its immediate neighbourhood. In cases where the ganglion is affected, another class of symptoms makes its appearance, possessing considerable physiological interest, viz., disturbance of the vegetative functions in the parts which are at the same time deprived of their sensation; this produces in the eye inflammation, suppuration, and ulceration, in the nasal and oral cavities redness, and hæmorrhage, and wasting of the gums. Such instances have been observed by Serres and Abercrombie.*—*B. and F. Med. Rev.*, April, 1839, from *Müller's Archiv*. 3 Heft. 1838.

2. *Malformation of the Placenta*.—DR. DURNER of Thaurin, has recorded in a recent Number of *Medicinisches Correspondenz-Blatt*, a case in which he found the placenta completely divided into two equal parts, and held together solely by

* Diseases of the Brain, p. 424. Last Edition.

the chorion and amnion. The umbilical cord bifurcated three inches above its insertion into the placenta, each branch consisting of two arteries and a vein. The two placenta with the cord, weighed four pounds two ounces. The infant was a first child still-born, at full time, well formed, but its extremities were smaller than usual.

This case is very remarkable for the great weight of the placenta, and its division into two equal parts. Meckel (*Handbuch der Pathol. Anat.* Leipzig, 1812, vol. i. p. 86) reports several examples in which the placenta was divided into two parts, but in all, one part was larger than the other in the proportion of 1 to 12, or 1 to 10, or of 1 to 8. Rohault (*Observ. Anat.* Turin, 1724, p. 7) saw placenta divided into three, and in one case into four parts, but all of different sizes. Hoboken (*Anat. Secund. Human. Repet. Ultraj.*, 1765, p. 198,) speaks of placenta divided into four unequal parts. Meckel (*loc. cit.*) saw a placenta divided into five parts, four of which were nearly equal, and the fifth double the size. Kerkringius (*Observ. Anat.* p. 37,) and Wisberg (*N. Comment. Soc. Got.* vol. iv. p. 73) saw a placenta divided into seven parts.

3. *Transfusion of Blood.*—Professor BISCROFF of Heidelberg formerly published his confirmation of the experience of Prévost, Dumas, and Dieffenbach, to the effect that fresh and unagitated blood procured from any of the mammalia, caused instantaneous death upon being injected into the veins of a bird. Upon repeating this experiment before his class, in the course of this and the previous summer, he was much astonished at not finding the usual fatal result to occur. In vain did he attempt to explain the cause of the disappointment, until it occurred to him whether, perhaps, there may be a difference in the effect of venous and arterial blood. In his former and latter experiments, he had taken a cat, rabbit, or young dog, and obtained blood from it by cutting its throat. It was therefore possible, that at different times the syringe had taken up different kinds of blood. To decide this, the following experiments were performed: In one leg of a dog the vena cruralis was exposed, and the arteria cruralis in the other. First, some blood was taken from the vein, and about a drachm was injected into the left jugular vein of a healthy cock. The bird died in a few seconds, under the most violent convulsions: A portion of blood from the artery of the other leg was then injected into the corresponding vein of a hen. The bird was powerfully affected by it, but the experiment did not prove fatal; in a short time it had recovered itself, and a small quantity of venous blood was injected, upon which the fowl died immediately. Precisely similar experiments were tried some time afterwards, and with the same results; here a few drops only of the venous blood proved fatal. A strong goose, also, bore the injection of arterial blood, but venous blood caused the most violent convulsions and death. What could be the cause of this remarkable difference? In order to avoid the possibility of other causes operating, every precaution was adopted. Thus, in order to prevent the possibility of plethora, a small quantity of blood was allowed to escape first; due care was also taken to avoid the injection of air into the veins, which however is by no means always attended with fatal consequences. There is then no doubt left, in the opinion of Dr. B., that it is the venous blood which exercises the fatal influence; how it acts, is a question which remains to be solved; and its solution will no doubt prove of service in increasing our knowledge of the differences between venous and arterial blood.—*B. and F. Med. Rev.* April, 1839, from Müller's Archiv. 4 Heft. 1838.

4. *On the Decussation of Fibres at the junction of the Medulla Spinalis with the Medulla Oblongata.* BY JOHN HILTON, Esq.—The author first alludes to what usually happens in affections of the brain, namely, that the loss of voluntary power and of sensation manifest themselves in the opposite side of the body to that in which the cerebral lesion exists, a fact which has been attempted to be explained by the crossing of the fibres at the junction of the medulla oblongata with the anterior or motor columns of the medulla spinalis; but such a structure, he observes, affords no explanation of the loss of sensation. The author then,

referring to the communication of Sir Charles Bell to the Royal Society, in the year 1835, describing a decussation connected with the posterior columns, or columns of sensation, mentions that the accuracy of these dissections was doubted by Mr. Mayo and other eminent anatomists. The author proceeds to state that the symptoms of cerebral lesion do not always take place on the opposite side of the body to that in which the lesion of the brain exists, but that they occur sometimes on the same side; that the loss of power and of sensation, although confined to the same side, may exist in either the upper or the lower extremity; but that both are not necessarily implicated; and that, in fact, cases occur where there are marked deviations from what may be considered the more common occurrence. Having observed such cases, and not being aware of any satisfactory explanation, the author examined with care the continuation upwards of the anterior and posterior columns of the spinal marrow into the medulla oblongata and found that the decussation at the upper part of the spinal marrow belonged in part to the columns for motion, and in part to the columns for sensation; and further, that the decussation is only partial with respect to either of these columns; thus elucidating by the observation of the actual structure what before appeared very unsatisfactory in pathology, and anomalous in disease.

The paper is illustrated by drawings made from the dissections of the author. *Proceedings of the Royal Society.* 1837-8. No. 34.

5. *An account of some Experiments on the Blood, in connection with the theory of Respiration.* By JOHN DAVY, M. D. &c.—The author has investigated, experimentally, several of the important questions connected with the theory of respiration and of animal heat; and arrives at the following results. He finds that the blood is capable of absorbing oxygen both from atmospheric air, and from oxygen gas, independently of putrefaction. After blood has been agitated in common air, a trace of carbonic acid, not exceeding one per cent., is found in the residual air; but when pure oxygen is employed, no carbonic acid can be detected in it by the most carefully conducted trials. When pure carbonic acid is brought into contact with blood, or serum, over mercury, and moderately agitated, the absorption of gas exceeds the volume of the fluid. Both arterial and venous blood are rendered very dark, and serum more liquid by the absorption of this gas to saturation. Serum, in its healthy state, is incapable of absorbing oxygen, or of immediately furnishing carbon to form carbonic acid: and after it has absorbed carbonic acid, only one-tenth of the absorbed gas is expelled by successive agitation with atmospheric air, or with hydrogen. The author is inclined to think that the alkali in the blood, in its healthiest condition, is in the state of a sesquicarbonate. In the majority of trials manifest indications of the disengagement of air from blood *in vacuo* were obtained: but as it occasionally happened that no air could be thus extricated, the author is induced to believe that the quantity of air contained in the blood is variable; and he has found this air to consist solely of carbonic acid gas. It would also appear, from the experiments detailed in this paper, that a portion of oxygen exists in the blood, not capable of being extracted by the air-pump, yet capable of entering into combination with nitrous gas; and existing in largest proportion in arterial blood. The absorption of oxygen by blood is attended with an increase of temperature.

The experiments of the author tend to show that the lungs are absorbing and secreting, and perhaps also inhaling organs, and that their peculiar function is to introduce oxygen into the blood, and separate carbonic acid from the blood; and they favour the idea that animal heat is owing, first, to the fixation or condensation of oxygen in the blood in the lungs during its conversion from venous to arterial; and secondly, to the combinations into which it enters in the circulation in connection with the different secretions and changes essential to animal life.—*Ibid.*

6. *Diurnal variations of the Pulse.*—In *Guy's Hospital Reports* for April last, there is an account of some interesting researches on this subject by Professor

Guy of King's College, London. The results as given by the author of experiments made upon himself are, as follows—

1. The pulse of a healthy adult male in a state of rest, unexcited either by food or exercise, is most frequent in the morning, and gradually diminishes as the day advances.

2. The pulse diminishes in frequency more rapidly in the evening than in the morning.

3. The diminution of the frequency of the pulse is more regular and progressive in the evening than in the morning.

4. The effect of food is greater and more lasting in the morning than in the evening; and, in some instances, the same food which in the morning produces an effect considerable both in amount and in duration, has no effect whatever in the evening.

7. *Products of Respiration at Different Periods of the Day.*—In the *Philosophical Magazine* for June last there is an account of some interesting experiments on this subject by CHARLES T. COATHUPE, Esq.

"The periods selected for the experiments were,

From 8 a.m. to 9½ a.m. before breakfast.

9½ a.m. to 12 noon } during the digestion of breakfast and before

12 noon to 1 p.m. } "luncheon."

1 p.m. to 5½ p.m. before dinner.

5½ p.m. to 8½ p.m. during the digestion of dinner.

8½ p.m. to 12 night.

Habits of the operator.

At 9½ a.m. a slender breakfast.

1 p.m. to 2 p.m. "luncheon."

5½ p.m. a good dinner, with a pint of wine.

8½ p.m. one small cup of tea.

10 p.m. occasionally one glass of weak brandy and water.

12 to 1, bed time.

Age, 38 years. Stature, 5 feet 8 inches. Weight, about 140 pounds.

Average pulse, 60 to 62 per minute. Average respiration, 18 to 21 per minute.

The following are the results:

1st period	8 a.m. to 9½ a.m.	32 experiments indicated	4.37	} per cent. of carb. acid gas.
2d "	10 a.m. to 12 noon	15 "	3.90	
3d "	12 noon to 1 p.m.	7 "	3.92	
4th "	2 p.m. to 5½ p.m.	29 "	4.17	
5th "	7 p.m. to 8½ p.m.	17 "	3.63	
6th "	9 p.m. to midnight	24 "	4.12	

124 experiments, comprising 8 days.

"Hence we find the carbonic acid gas produced by respiration to be a variable quantity, that it is less during the period of active digestion, that it increases with increased abstinence from food, and it varies in the same individual at similar periods of different days. It also appeared during these experiments, that excitement of any kind (whether from the exhilarating stimulus of wine, or from the irritating annoyances which are wont to occur to most folks who are actively engaged,) caused a diminution of carbonic acid in the air respired, as compared with the ordinary average of that respired at a similar period of the day, and during a state of ordinary tranquillity. The total daily average indicated 4.09 per cent. of carbonic acid gas. The maximum observed at any single examination was 7.98 per cent. It was at 8 a.m. February 5th. The minimum observed at any single examination was 1.91 per cent. It was at 7½ p.m. February 7th."

These results differ widely from those of Messrs. Allen and Pepys, (*Philos. Trans.* 1809;) which Mr. C. ascribes, in part, to the experiments of Messrs. A. & P. being made either before breakfast or immediately before dinner, the periods

of the day in which Mr. C. has shown the respiration to contain its maximum quantity of carbonic acid gas, and, in part, to the increase in the carbonic acid gas eliminated by protracting in their experiments the respiratory process.

Mr. C. thinks, from his own observations, and from the experiments of others, that the following details, connected with this subject, may be faithfully relied on:—

"1. The average number of respirations made by most adult healthy individuals (varying from 17 to 23 per minute) may be stated as 20 per minute.

"2. The average bulk of air respired at each respiration made by such individuals (varying from 14 to 18 cubic inches) may be stated as 16 cubic inches.

"3. The average daily amount of carbonic acid gas found in the air respired by such individuals (varying at its extremes from 1.9 to 7.98 per cent.) may be stated as 4 per cent.

"Hence 460,800 cubic inches, or 266.66 cubic feet of air pass through the lungs of a healthy adult of ordinary stature in 24 hours, of which 10.666 cubic feet will be converted into carbonic acid gas, = 2386.27 grs. or 5.45 ounces avoirdupois, of carbon. This gives 99.6 grs. of carbon per hour, produced by the respiration of one human adult, or 124.328 pounds annually; and if we multiply this by 26½ millions (being the calculated population of Great Britain and Ireland for the year 1839) we have 147,070 tons of carbon as the annual product of the respiration of human beings at present existing within the circumscribed boundaries of Great Britain and Ireland.

"Hence also the *maximum quantity* of fresh atmospheric air that can possibly be required by a healthy adult during 24 hours, even supposing that no portion of the air respired could be again inspired, will not exceed 266.666 cubic feet."

PATHOLOGICAL ANATOMY AND GENERAL PATHOLOGY.

8. *Perforation of the Stomach from Morbid Causes.*—This may be the result:—
1st. Of simple ulceration; sometimes of an acute, but more commonly of a chronic character. 2. Of scirrhus ulceration. 3. Of a solution of the parietes, which is supposed to take place after death. Mr. ALFRED S. TAYLOR has collected several cases illustrative of this remarkable disease, and thinks that they warrant the following conclusions:

"1. Perforation of the stomach seems to attack frequently young females from 18 to 23 years of age, generally unmarried. According to Andral, females who have been recently delivered, and those persons who have undergone severe operations, are likewise subject to it. The disease is not exclusively confined to females, or to a particular age. In the preceding observations, two cases of males, at 60, have been referred to.

"2. The preceding illness is commonly slight, rarely amounting to more than simple dyspepsia or slight irritation of the stomach after eating, with want of appetite. These symptoms may have existed for some weeks or months before; but have been altogether disregarded, and perhaps not even noticed by those, with whom the deceased associated. In other cases, the gastric disturbance is more severe: but as a medico-legal fact, it is important to remember, that these cases, with severe precursory symptoms, appear to constitute the smaller number. Dr. Abercrombie remarks, that 'this affection may run its course, almost to the latest period, without vomiting; and with scarcely any symptom, except the uneasiness which is produced by eating, and which subsides entirely a few hours after a meal.' Some have considered that a chlorotic state of the system might dispose young females to this affection; but there does not appear to be any sufficient ground for this opinion. It has happened, in some few instances, that chlorosis co-existed with this disease of the stomach; but in others, the females are described as having been stout and healthy. Besides, the same disease, with the same characters, occurs in male subjects at various

periods of life.—Evidence is then wanting to show that there is any connection between chlorosis and a tendency to this disease of the stomach.

"3. The individual is suddenly seized with the most severe pain in the abdomen, generally soon after a meal. It seems probable that this pain takes place at the moment the parietes of the stomach give way, and the contents of the organ are effused into the peritoneal cavity. The pain is of that excruciating kind, that the individual feels, unless it be removed, he cannot long survive. The attack coming on soon after a meal, may be, perhaps, dependent on the coats of the organ having become so thinned at the spot, that the slight action required for chymification may lead to the entire destruction of the thinned peritoneal tunic, which at this time must form the only partition between the cavity of the stomach and that of the peritoneum. At other times, the occurrence of the attack under these circumstances seems to be a pure coincidence; as where, for instance, in one of the cases, the perforation took place immediately after a cup of tea had been swallowed. We cannot be surprised, however, that poison should be suspected to exist in the food, when an individual, apparently in full health, is suddenly seized with such alarming symptoms; and therefore the greater caution is required in investigating the case. We ought to be well aware of all the particulars, before we countenance, in the least degree, the suspicion of poisoning: and among the diagnostic marks of the disease, we must not therefore forget the suddenness of the occurrence, and the intensity of the pain.

"4. In several of the cases reported, pain in the abdomen was accompanied or succeeded by pain between the shoulders. How far this deserves to be regarded as a pathognomic character, must depend on further observation: but its having been already so frequently met with, seems to render it something more than an incidental occurrence. The pain in the abdomen commonly undergoes a remission before death; and the mental faculties are usually clear, until the last.

"5. There is commonly vomiting: this, however, is sometimes absent; and in other instances very slight, the stomach simply rejecting what may be given as medicine or food. There is no diarrhoea: in general, the bowels are obstinately confined. The symptoms, after the first attack, when carefully examined, are those of peritonitis, not of irritant poisoning.

"6. Death takes place in from eighteen to thirty-six hours: in most of the cases mentioned, death occurred within twenty-four hours. The time at which the disease proves fatal, closely approximates to that at which a person dies in severe cases of arsenical poisoning.

"We may next direct our attention to the appearances met with in the dead body.

"1. On opening the abdomen, there are all the marks of severe peritonitis;—effusion of serum, with coagulable lymph; agglutination of the viscera; and extravasation of the contents of the stomach.

"2. An aperture in the stomach, of an oval or rounded form; its shape depending, in some degree, on the manner in which the parietes of the stomach are placed, to observe it. It is commonly from half an inch to an inch in diameter; and is situated in or near the lesser curvature, between the cardia and pylorus. This almost constant situation of the ulcerated aperture is a circumstance worthy of remark. It has not, as yet, so far as I am aware, received any explanation from pathologists. The edges of the aperture are smooth, soft, and fleshy-looking. The tunics appear to be thinned off, from within outwards; so that the mucous membrane is usually removed to a greater extent than the muscular coat; and this, than the peritoneal coat. The last is thinned off to a sharp edge, so that there is no appearance of laceration or ulceration. Near the circumference of the aperture, the coats of the stomach are thickened, sometimes hard, and even cartilaginous. This thickening may be disposed in a slight ring, or extend to some distance; and it may be confined to one part of the circumference, or extend all round. I have here described what I have actually seen; and although I do not presume to say that these are the invariable characters of the perforation, yet they agree closely with the descriptions given

by other and more experienced observers than myself. The hardening and thickening of the parietes of the stomach, around the aperture, seem to indicate what Andral long ago stated—that the ulceration is of a chronic character. The smoothness of the borders of the aperture renders it probable that the tunics are gradually thinned off by slow absorption; and that before the perforation is complete, the peritoneal coat is reduced to the thinnest stratum of membrane. Were it not so, we should expect to find the margin always fringed and lacerated;—an appearance which is not, I believe, very usually observed. The peritoneal coat does not seem to have undergone laceration or rupture, but to have become entirely removed. In some cases, where this fringed appearance has been met with, the circumstance may probably be explained by some mechanical cause having accelerated the rupture of the thinned membranes. Dr. Abercrombie thinks that the smoothness of the edges of the perforation is to be accounted for by supposing them to have cicatrized.

“When the aperture is the result of simple ulceration, then the appearances will be modified:—there is no thickening of the coats of the stomach, and marks of ulceration are apparent. The edge of the aperture may be very slightly or not at all raised above the surface of the surrounding membrane. Several cases of this kind have been adverted to, and are illustrated by the Museum preparations.

“Sometimes there are two openings in the stomach, near each other: or, instead of the second opening, there may be marks of ulceration scattered over the organ.

“3. The mucous membrane of the stomach is either pale, or presents slight patches of inflammatory redness over its surface: sometimes the margin of the ulcerated aperture is slightly reddened, the other parts of the stomach being healthy.—*Guy's Hospital Reports*, April, 1839.

9. *Disorders of the Brain connected with Diseased Kidneys.*—It has long been familiar to the profession that suppression of urine is productive of disorder of the brain, and that mechanical obstruction to the flow of urine is followed by a similar result; and further, Dr. Bright has shown that there exists in many instances, a corresponding connection between disorder of the brain and the peculiar change of kidney to which his name has been bestowed. To Dr. WILLIAM ADDISON, the merit is, however, we believe due, of being the first to make the attempt to specify with precision, and in detail, the several forms of cerebral disorder arising in connection with disease of the kidney, or to found upon the character of these cerebral affections, a means of diagnosis available in cases in which, from the absence of the ordinary symptoms of nephritis, of every form of dropsical effusion, and of an albuminous state of the urine, the diseased condition of the kidneys is liable to be altogether overlooked. The experience and observation of this pathologist have led him to believe that such cases are by no means of very rare occurrence, and that, in the absence of other indications, the renal disease may occasionally be recognised with tolerable certainty by the character of the cerebral disorder alone.

According to his experience, the “general character of cerebral affections connected with renal disease is marked by a *pale face, a quiet pulse, a contracted or undilated and obedient pupil, and the absence of paralysis*—this general character, however, being somewhat modified, in certain cases, by circumstances attending the individual attack.

So far as Dr. A. has yet been able to observe, the individual forms of cerebral disorder connected with renal disease are the five following:—

“1. A more or less sudden attack of *quiet stupor*; which may be temporary and repeated; or permanent, ending in death.

“2. A sudden attack of a *peculiar modification of coma and stertor*; which may be temporary, or end in death.

“3. A sudden attack of *convulsions*; which may be temporary, or terminate in death.

“4. A *combination of the two latter*; consisting of a sudden attack of coma and stertor, accompanied by constant or intermitting convulsions.

“5. A state of *dulness of intellect, sluggishness of manner, and drowsiness*, often

preceded by *giddiness, dimness of sight, and pain in the head*; proceeding either to *coma* alone, or to *coma accompanied by convulsions*; the coma presenting the peculiar character already alluded to.

"With respect to the first-mentioned form of cerebral disorder connected with renal disease, that of quiet stupor, it is, in its most exquisite form, probably the least frequently met with; the face is pale, the pulse quiet, the pupil natural, or at least obedient to light; and although the patient may lie almost completely motionless, there is no paralysis; for, on attentively watching him for some time, he will be observed slightly to move all the extremities. By agitating him, and speaking loudly, he may sometimes be partially roused for a moment, but quickly relapses into stupor, as before; or it may not be possible to rouse him at all. There is little or no labour of respiration, no stertor, and no convulsions. Slight degrees of it occasionally precede and pass into the next or second form.

"This second form of cerebral affection is that of a sudden attack of coma with stertor, or in other words, apoplexy: it is, nevertheless, different from ordinary apoplexy: it is the serous apoplexy of authors, and presents the usual general characters of cerebral affection depending upon renal disease; for the face, instead of being flushed, is, in almost every instance, remarkably pale; the pulse, though sometimes small, and more rarely full, is remarkably quiet, or almost natural; the pupil, also, although occasionally dilated or contracted, is often remarkably natural in size, and obedient to light; and there is no paralysis. When the labour of respiration is very great, the general character is apt to be modified by an accelerated pulse, and occasionally by a slight flush of the countenance. The coma is for the most part complete, so that the patient cannot be roused to intelligence for a single moment. The stertor is very peculiar, and in a great measure characteristic of this form of cerebral affection connected with renal disease: it has not, by any means, in general, the deep, rough, guttural, or nasal sound of ordinary apoplexy: it is sometimes slightly of this kind; but much more commonly the stertor presents more of a hissing character, as if produced by the air, both in inspiration and in expiration, striking against the hard palate or even against the lips of the patient, rather than against the velum and throat, as in ordinary apoplectic stertor: the act of respiration, too, is usually, from the first, much more hurried than is observed in the coma of ordinary apoplexy. The peculiar stertor coupled with the pale face has, in more instances than one, enabled me to pronounce with confidence the disease to be renal, without asking a single question, and in cases, too, in which no renal disease whatever had for a moment been suspected.

"The third form of cerebral disorder connected with renal disease is that of a sudden attack of convulsions. In this case, also, the countenance is, for the most part, remarkably pale, although, occasionally, slightly flushed at intervals: the pupil is often but little affected: in slight attacks of the kind, the pulse is sometimes singularly quiet; but when the convulsions are severe, and especially when there is such a degree of coma as to be attended with stertor, the heart often sympathizes, and the pulse becomes rapid, irregular, and jerking. This form of cerebral affection often passes into the fourth variety; or the cerebral affection shall take on the form of the fourth variety from the commencement; in the latter case, we have merely a combination of the second and third varieties—the coma, hurried breathing, stertor, and convulsions being so blended together, as often to have led to a dispute, whether the affection ought to be designated apoplexy or epilepsy. From what has been already stated, it may in general be very easily recognised as one of the common forms of cerebral disorder connected with renal disease.

"The fifth variety is that in which the cerebral disorder makes its approach in a more gradual and insidious manner, usually commencing with dulness of intellect, sluggishness of manner, and drowsiness, gradually proceeding to coma, and more or less stertor, with or without convulsions; these states being, at the same time, distinguished by the general indications already pointed out. This form of cerebral disorder appears to be that which most commonly supervenes

in the progress of the morbid change of kidney described by Dr. Bright; and is very frequently preceded by giddiness, dimness of sight, and pain in the head."

Dr. Addison thinks, that he has perceived a certain degree of relation between the actual condition of the kidney and the character of the cerebral affections.

"Of all the more serious affections of the brain arising in connection with renal disease, the mildest form," he observes, "appears to be that of a tendency to a state of quiet stupor, varying in degree from a mere torpidity of manner and sluggishness of intellect, to complete insensibility to all surrounding objects. Accordingly, I have found this form of cerebral disorder most frequently present in what may be regarded as the least formidable, or more temporary derangements of the kidney. The most exquisite example I ever saw, occurred in a man who at the time presented no dropsical symptoms whatever, whose urine was not albuminous, and who made no complaint of pain or uneasiness in his loins. After death, the cortical part of the kidneys was found highly injected, of a deep-red or almost chocolate colour, and somewhat softened in its texture; in short, furnishing the strongest indications of a recent nephritic attack in a subdued form: it is also my belief, that the same state of things not unfrequently takes place, at an early period, in the progress of scarlatina: we observe an approach to a similar condition of brain in cases of fever, in which the bladder has been allowed to become over-distended; and most assuredly in cases of retention from stricture, and in cases of calculus in the kidney. In all these instances, the interruption or impediment to the urinary secretion may be said to be recent or incomplete; and hence, probably, the less degree of severity of the cerebral affection, and the less peril to the patient; for in such instances the symptoms very commonly pass away, and the patient recovers. When, however, the hurtful cause is of an originally nephritic character, the chance of recovery will be less than when the cause of obstruction happens to be merely mechanical and temporary.

"The next, in point of severity, of the cerebral affections connected with renal disease appears to be that of convulsions, with comparatively little stertor;—convulsions, however, which may prove speedily fatal; or which may be repeated an indefinite number of times, but from which the patient very often completely and permanently recovers. Accordingly, I have observed this form of more simple convulsions most frequently associated with what may fairly be regarded as a more exquisite and enduring form of renal disease than that just alluded to: I have observed it most frequently in cases of renal dropsy, subsequent to scarlatina; and in that form of renal dropsy supposed to arise from direct exposure to damp and cold, commonly known by the name of inflammatory dropsy. As the renal affection has already proceeded to induce dropsy, we cannot but regard it as more fixed and more formidable than in the cases described as being attended with more or less of quiet stupor: and accordingly, instead of merely a certain degree of this latter condition, we have convulsion which may indeed prove fatal, but from which, as already observed, the patient often completely and permanently recovers.

"As might have been expected, the most stubborn and intractable, as well as the most fatal cases of cerebral disorder connected with renal disease are unquestionably those found associated with the chronic and irremediable disorganization of kidney described and illustrated by Dr. Bright. It is nevertheless very far from being true, that every such case of renal disease is associated with cerebral disorder: on the contrary, in no very inconsiderable proportion of such cases, even till the period of their fatal termination, no cerebral derangement whatever, or, at least, none of sufficient intensity to attract particular attention, has been observed. Why cerebral symptoms should supervene in one case and not in another, or, in other words, what it is that determines their development in this and in other forms of renal disease, it is impossible, in the present state of our knowledge, to ascertain; for, although a simultaneous diminution of the urinary secretion may occasionally be observed, such a coincidence is by no means constant; the secretion, in some instances, continuing to flow in

a very fair quantity, even at the period of the most formidable attacks of cerebral disorder.

Considering the gravity, permanence, and irremediable nature of the disorganization in this form of renal disease, we might naturally expect that the cerebral disorder, when it does supervene, would, in its constancy, urgency, and irritability, be found in some measure to correspond;—and, accordingly, this has really appeared to me to be the case; the patient suffering repeatedly, or more or less constantly, from heaviness, drowsiness, giddiness, or pain, or sense of tightness in the head, and being peculiarly liable to be suddenly seized with the most alarming and most fatal of all the forms of cerebral disorder occurring in connection with renal disease—profound coma and stertor, with or without convulsions.

I have purposely omitted to notice the morbid changes discovered in the brain after death: they are well known to be very often, in appearance at least, extremely slight; and do not, as far as we are yet aware, either in their kind, degree, or situation, offer any explanation of the form or severity of the cerebral disorder which proved the immediate cause of death.—*Ibid.*

MATERIA MEDICA AND GENERAL THERAPEUTICS.

10. *Employment of Sulphate of Quinine in the form of ointment for the cure of malignant intermittents.* DR. ANTONINI, principal physician of the French Army in Africa, extols the efficacy of sulphate of quinine employed in the form of ointment in the cure of malignant intermittent fevers. The following is his formula for the preparation of this ointment:—Take of sulphate of quinine $\mathfrak{z}\text{ij}$., alcohol 38° to 40° q. s. (about $\mathfrak{z}\text{ij}$.) acid. sulphur. q. s. (about 80 drops) axung. $\mathfrak{z}\text{iv}$. It is essential that the solution in alcohol be complete and filtered, and that the mixture be made gradually and with care, otherwise the quinine returns to its original condition and its absorption does not take place. The usual quantity employed at one time is about half an ounce of the ointment, but this dose may be doubled in severe cases.

The mode of applying it is by frictions to the groins and it is also placed in the axilla.—*Journ. des Connaiss. Med. Chirurg.* Oct. 1838.

11. *Formulæ for Syrups of Copaiba.*—M. EMILE MOUCHON of Lyons gives the following formula for the preparation of a magnesian syrup of copaiba:—R. Bals. Copaib. $\mathfrak{z}\text{iv}$; Magnes. Calc. gr. xxxij; Ess. Menth. pp. gtt. lxiv: Syrup. Simp. $\mathfrak{z}\text{lx}$. Dissolve the magnesia in the balsam of copaiba, and when the solution is complete, add the essence of mint and the simple syrup, triturating them together for a long time. This preparation M. Mouchon states has nearly the appearance of orgeat syrup, and with but little of the taste of the copaiba.

The following is the formula for the gummy syrup of copaiba of Dr. PUCHET. R. Bals. Copaib. $\mathfrak{z}\text{ij}$; Pulv. gum Arab. $\mathfrak{z}\text{ss}$; Aq. Puræ $\mathfrak{z}\text{iss}$; Ol. Menth. pp. gtt. xxxij. Syr. Simp. $\mathfrak{z}\text{xij}$. The balsam of copaiba is to be rubbed up with the water and gum arabic, then the essential oil, and finally the syrup is to be added. An ounce of this syrup contains a drachm of the copaiba. It is said to be better borne by the stomach than other preparations of copaiba.—*Journ. des Connaiss. Med.* Nov. 1838.

12. *On Remedial Powers of Croton Oil.* By G. G. SIGMOND, M. D.—The remedial powers of croton oil have been made an object of the most elaborate experiments, both internally and externally. Andral, Constant, Dr. Short, Dr. Hutchinson, of Nottingham, have given us the result of close investigation, and the medical profession are generally convinced of its great efficacy. It may be rendered a mild and gentle purgative, and if given with proper precaution is as safe as any of the class with which we are in the habit of treating disease. It is best administered in the form of pill, in union with compound extract of

colocynth, with the extract of jalap, or with extract of rhubarb, to which a drop or two of the essential oil of cloves, of cinnamon, or of peppermint is added to disguise its odour, and to prevent any griping. In cases where a pill is difficult of deglutition a drop diffused in olive oil, or in a teaspoonful of syrup, may be given, but this is ordinarily succeeded by a sensation of burning in the mouth, along the œsophagus, and sometimes nausea; and even vomiting, but as soon as these have subsided, which is usually in a few minutes, no uncomfortable sensation occurs till about an hour, or an hour and a half afterwards; then there are slight colicky pains, and soon after evacuations take place; they at first come away rather suddenly; in many instances the stools are watery, with a slight tinge of yellow; at other times, and this frequently where the bowels have most determinedly refused to obey the suggestions of other active remedies, the most copious evacuations occur. A very singular and interesting case of tetanus is narrated by Mr. Lawrence in his lecture on tetanus, which is to be found in *THE LANCET* for the year 1829, in which aperients did not produce the expected effect, until the patient took a single drop of croton oil in a teaspoonful of light gruel, and within about an hour a most violent action was produced on the bowels; he discharged such a quantity of matter of various kinds from them, as altogether astonished him, and all those about him, they seemed to be quite at a loss to know how to describe the quantity. A case in which oxalic acid had been taken as a poison is related by Mr. Lovegrove of Upper Baker-street, in which two scruples of jalap and eight of calomel, an injection of castor oil, and of sulphate of magnesia, produced only trifling evacuation, but a drop of the croton with jalap procured several free motions. One of the great advantages attendant upon the administration of this, and of elaterium, where proper care has been taken is, that they leave no bad effect whatever behind them, and that on the following day the effects are quite over, the tongue wears its wonted appearance, there is no febrile rhythm about the pulse, no uneasiness about the abdomen, which bears pressure very well; indeed it is not unusual to find that the patient has a tranquil sleep during the night, with gentle perspiration, and the kidneys slightly called into increased action. It has been recommended to give croton oil to those who are habitually constive, and it has been stated on medical authority that it is of great use in keeping the bowels regularly open; a hint of this kind in a clinical lecture from a highly esteemed professor, was the reason that it was adopted in some of the quack pills of the day, but from the combination with gamboge, and probably the carelessness with which these ingredients were mixed together, a drastic cathartic was the result, which has proved very hurtful. In the only instances, two in number, in which the oil was recommended as a sort of domestic remedy, it was found after a time very capricious as to the effects it produced, sometimes acting with great vigour, at others without giving any relief. There are some persons who cannot take it at all, they are very sick and are rendered highly irritable, but there are few who are griped by it. It is very apt to produce eruptions on the surface of the body when taken internally, more particularly about the mouth. There, however, seem to be individuals who are excessively susceptible to papulous eruptions about the lower part of the face after taking opening medicine, which is commonly called "the going off of the fever." It is a subject well worthy attention, that even skin diseases of long standing have followed upon the use of some vegetable remedies which act upon the bowels, accompanied sometimes by an intolerable itching. The connection between the internal secretions and the external are, indeed, oftentimes strongly evinced, as is the case in the miserable state of itching which occurs after jaundice, and which sometimes is as the poet has said of love, "*nullis medicabilis herbis*" Croton oil has been strongly recommended in cholera, and the interesting case of Dr. Tegart, related by himself, of his sufferings from spasmodic cholera, and his recovery by the use of the oil, have made an impression on the profession; but although it led to trials of its efficacy we have no reason to look upon it in any very favourable light as a decided means of cure of the disease.

In cases where the due nervous impression is not made upon the intestinal

canal, as in apoplexy, epilepsy, tetanus, and mania, croton oil is a most important remedy, as well from its great intensity of power, as from the capability of giving it in such minute quantities. In very severe cases of painter's colic, Andral tried it with great success; indeed some cases have been known, of the most striking character, to yield in two or three days. Some doubts exist as to the utility of giving it in paralysis consequent upon this disease, or arising from unknown causes. Some inflammations have been treated by it, but they seem not to have been relieved by the remedy, with the exception of some cases of laryngitis; but even these were not benefitted until the external application was ordered. Many disorders that owe their aggravated character to loaded bowels, such as asthma, obstinate headache, apparent determination to the head, are relieved by a drop of croton oil, which then produces abundant liquid evacuations. A drop rubbed on the abdomen will produce purging, a slight smarting, and a redness of the skin taking place, but if a larger quantity be used this is followed by an eruption of small papulæ which gradually wear the appearance of pustules; some of these are surrounded by a red areola, and occasion no small degree of suffering; at the end of about thirty hours these pustules are fully developed, having a whitish opaque fluid; sometimes they are not completely formed until the fourth day, they remain then for a day or two unaltered, they then dry up and fall off; the pustules bear a strong resemblance to those of small pox. Advantage has been taken of this power to use the oil as a counter-irritant, and frictions have been made with a mixture consisting of ten drops to an ounce of the oil of sweet almonds. The first trials were made in the Hospital of La Pitié, and there paralysis, sciatica, affections of the digestive organs, received relief from these frictions. The appearances will vary much according to the number of drops, the time employed in rubbing them into the skin, and the parts of the body on which the frictions take place. It is upon the face, the scalp, the larynx, and the chest, that the influence is most strikingly exhibited; the extremities seem less acted upon; where the abdomen has been the seat of the action abundant evacuations have occasionally occurred; the armpits and the thighs exhibit often a high degree of rubescence. When the face and scalp have been thus treated, erysipelas has sometimes been observed, still no bad symptom has arisen. Active inflammation of the larynx has been successfully combated at La Pitié by it, but the testimony of Dr. Hutchinson does not confirm the testimony in its favour, when the inflammation is of a chronic nature, and as he observes, no practitioner could place confidence to it alone in active laryngeal inflammation.

There is a valuable paper from the pen of Dr. Inglis, of Castle Douglas, in *THE LANCET*, on the external application of croton oil in cynanche trachealis, in which he details facts exhibiting the good effects of this as a remedial agent in regular croup. There is one circumstance which you must bear in mind, in the employment of this counter-irritant, as well as tartar emetic, that you will probably have a high degree of irritation produced at some part considerably distant from the seat of friction, and that the scrotum will more particularly be affected. The skin of the genitals is very apt to become in a very irritable state, and the itching is most distressing, and continues sometimes after all action of the croton has ceased; the smarting, the tingling, and the heat at bedtime are generally much increased; decoctions of elm bark, and of dulcamara allay these sensations, as does creosote, but then they again come on, and sometimes more pertinaciously than ever.—*Lancet*, 21st July, 1838.

SPECIAL PATHOLOGY, AND SPECIAL THERAPEUTICS.

13. *Puerperal Fever*.—The term Puerperal, or Childbed Fever, although not scientific or consonant to the nomenclature of other febrile diseases, cannot in the opinion of Professor OSLANDER, be well replaced by any other which has been proposed, such as *peritonitis puerperalis*, *metro-peritonitis*, &c. The perito-

pneum and the uterus may be quite free from inflammation, and yet the patient may die from puerperal fever.

Often the disease commences as an attack of meningitis, or of erysipelas, or of rheumatic swelling of the joints, &c. and, under any of these forms, it speedily proves as dangerous and alarming as when the uterus and peritoneum are primarily affected. For this reason, Professor Oslander prefers to retain the old generic term of Puerperal fever, and of distinguishing its various species or forms in the following manner, according to the seat and character of the predominant local mischief.

1. Puerperal fever with peritonitis.
2. hysteritis and peritonitis.
3. meningitis.
4. pneumonia.
5. miliary fever.
6. erysipelas.
7. arthritic swelling.
8. milk abscess.
9. gangrenous inflammation of the external and internal generative organs, (metritis gangrenosa.)
10. typhus fever.

The last-mentioned variety includes, according to this tabular arrangement, all those cases of childbed fever, in which there is a suppurative inflammation of the uterine and adjacent veins. It is by far the most formidable variety of the disease, and is that which usually prevails epidemically at certain seasons, more especially in large institutions. To apply the term *peritonitis*, or *metro-peritonitis* to it, is not only quite incorrect—seeing that often no genuine traces of peritoneal inflammation are discoverable on dissection—but is likewise most seriously hurtful, in consequence of the erroneous treatment which will necessarily be recommended.

An impure condition of the atmosphere—attributable very often to an overcrowded state of the wards in a lying-in establishment—is unquestionably one of the most frequent causes of puerperal typhus. That this form of the disease is of a miasmatic origin, and is communicable from one patient to another, cannot be well disputed; and it therefore becomes the duty of the physician and nurse to use all precautionary means to prevent the dissemination of the miasm, by changing their own garments frequently, washing their hands, &c. as well as by the employment of fumigations and other well-known means.

Much may be done in the way of *prophylaxis* of this disease, but very little in the *treatment* of it, when it is once fairly established. There is perhaps no form of fever so little under the control of medicine as puerperal fever; it is only in the precursory and very early stages of the disease that the healing art can be of any avail.

According to the researches of Oslander, inflammation and suppuration of the uterine veins is by no means so generally present, as some authors might lead us to suppose.

Inflammation of the lymphatic vessels seems to be of much more frequent occurrence when the peritoneum has been inflamed, than phlebitis of the uterine veins.

The latter is, however, by far, the most serious affection of the two. Abscesses of the liver, of the lungs, and of the muscles and joints, are not uncommon sequelæ of uterine phlebitis, when the patient has survived the early stage of the disease.

The following few cases illustrate some of the most generally observed characters of puerperal typhus.

CASE 1.—*Puerperal Typhus, fatal in 24 hours, with Peritonitis, and Suppuration in the Uterine Lymphatics.*

A woman, 27 years of age, was delivered in the Maternité Hospital, at a time when childbed fever was very prevalent. For three days subsequently

she went on very well; but, on the fourth day, she began to complain of pain in the hypogastric region. The pulse, at this time, was frequent, but not full or hard; and the patient was troubled with diarrhoea and tendency to vomiting. *An unfavourable prognosis was formed, in consequence of the great frequency of the pulse.* Thirty leeches were applied to the abdomen, and an ipecacuan emetic was administered; an ounce of mercurial ointment was rubbed in upon the inside of the thighs, and a sinapised hip-bath was used.

In the evening, the abdominal pain was less severe, but the pulse was still rapid and small: the diarrhoea and nausea continued.

Next day, the abdomen was tympanitic, and very painful; the breathing was hurried and uneasy; but there was no delirium, or mental confusion. Sinapisms and friction with the mercurial ointment were continued; but the patient died in the course of the night.

Dissection.—The abdomen was found to contain a quantity of muddy serum, blended with numerous flocculi of albuminous matter—the result, no doubt, of peritoneal inflammation. Beneath the peritoneum, in the left iliac fossa, there was a purulent infiltration into the cellular tissue: this extended upwards as high as the kidney. The lymphatic vessels of the broad ligaments were filled with pus; but the uterine veins seemed to be entirely sound.

CASE 2.—*Puerperal Typhus, with Suppurative Inflammation, in the Sub-peritoneal Cellular Substance, and in the Uterine Lymphatics.*

A woman was seized, on the second evening after a fortunate delivery, with shivering and abdominal pain. Upwards of fifty leeches were applied on the hypogastrium; and fomentations and other means were used. But on the following day the patient was moribund, and she died in the course of the evening: the abdomen had become exceedingly inflated.

Dissection.—The abdominal cavity contained some reddish-coloured serum; and between the uterus and rectum a small quantity of consistent pus was found. In the region of the cæcum some purulent matter existed behind the peritoneum. The lymphatic vessels, which accompany the spermatic veins, were full of matter.

Remark.—We are inclined to believe that the inflammation must have, in this case, commenced previously to delivery.

CASE 3.—*Puerperal Typhus, fatal in fifteen hours after Delivery; Peritonitis and Suppuration of the Lymphatics; softening and Melanosis of the Lungs.*

A young woman was admitted, in the eighth month of her pregnancy, into the Lying-in Hospital on the 17th of June, at a time when the childbed fever was very prevalent. On the third day afterwards, she experienced abdominal pain, and feverish excitement.

On the 25th, she was delivered of a dead child; and, on the following day, she died.

Dissection.—The abdomen contained a large quantity of white matter; and the lymphatic vessels on the sides of the uterus were filled with pus. The inferior lobe of the left lung was softened, and of a black colour.

CASE 4.—*Puerperal Typhus, fatal in 50 hours; Peritonitis, and Suppuration of the Lymphatics.*

A middle-aged woman was seized, on the evening after her confinement, with shivering. Next morning, she had abdominal pains; the pulse was exceedingly quickened, and very easily compressed; there was slight diarrhoea; the lochia were not much affected. *Oslander* formed a very unfavourable prognosis of the case, in consequence of the extreme rapidity and feebleness of the pulse: he had not seen one patient recover in whom this state of the circulation existed. As he had found evil only to result from sanguineous depletion in any form, and from the use of emetics, as recommended by some physicians, he contented himself with recommending the application of poultices to the abdomen, and of camphor ointment around the pubes and to the thighs, and of warm injections into the vagina. By the use of these means, the patient was somewhat easier towards evening. Next day the abdominal pain was gone, and the pulse was

not quite so rapid: five grains of ipecacuan were ordered to be given every four or five hours; and the warm-baths were to be continued.

But soon afterwards she became gradually worse, and she died 68 hours after delivery, and about 50 after the commencement of the feverish symptoms.

Dissection.—The abdomen contained some purulent serosity; and pus was found in the uterine lymphatics, in the Fallopian tubes, and in the cellular tissue of the pelvis.

General Reflections.—Professor Oslander closes his memoir with a few remarks on the probable exciting, or predisposing causes of childbed fever. He insists particularly on the pernicious influence of cold air on women in the puerperal state; and he attributes the lamentable frequency and fatality of the disease, in the large lying-in institutions in Paris and Vienna, to the continual ventilation of the wards.

He mentions, that whereas it is almost constantly more or less prevalent in these hospitals, it is comparatively rare in the Maternité at Gottingen, whose wards are small, never crowded, and uniformly kept in a state of pleasant warmth. He is therefore of opinion that, if in lying-in establishments more attention was paid to the warming of the wards, and to avoid the crowding of many patients together, the epidemics of puerperal fever would be much less frequent and fatal.

He has never seen any good effects from the administration of calomel and active purgatives in this disease. He recommends the use of saline and tonic medicines; and he mentions that the application of large mustard poultices to the mamme—so as to excite a powerful revulsion from the uterus—has in several cases seemed to act more beneficially than any other means, which he has employed.—*Med. Chirurg. Rev.* April, 1839, from *Zeitschrift für die ges. Med.*

14. *Belladonna Plaster in Nervous Palpitations, Irritable Bladder, &c.*—Dr. SIMPSON, of the York County Hospital, uses a belladonna plaster over the region of the heart, to quiet violent palpitation; and Dr. LAYCOCK says that he has found the application very successful, especially in nervous palpitation. Dr. L. states also that the belladonna plaster will relieve irritable bladder and neuralgia or irritability of the rectum. The plaster should be made with the pure extract spread on lint or leather, and applied moist to the sacrum or perineum. Dr. L. thinks that an opiate plaster made with powdered opium and soap cerate, is more efficacious than belladonna, especially in irritable bladder; it will, sometimes, enable a person to rest undisturbed during a whole night.—*Lond. Med. Gaz.* 16th March, 1838.

15. *External Application of Colchicum in Rheumatism.*—Dr. THOMAS LAYCOCK states that he has been led, by some theoretical speculations, to try a liniment composed of equal parts of the tincture of the root of colchicum and of the tincture of camphor, in rheumatism, and the result was exceedingly satisfactory. He has found the colchicum alone equally successful. The only notice, he observes, that he finds of this method of using colchicum is in the *Diet. de Mat. Med.* of Merat and De Lens, ii. 361. A Dr. Gumpert is there quoted (from *Rev. Méd.* i. 140), as having used the tincture of seeds of colchicum as a local application in gout and rheumatism very successfully. The particular instance of a clergyman is mentioned, who was confined to his bed for a month or six weeks with the latter, and who was able to leave it on the fifth day after frictions with the tincture of the seeds. From theoretical considerations, Dr. Laycock thinks it will be found a useful application in gout as well as rheumatism. Those who have corns, which are painful during atmospheric changes, will Dr. L. says probably find the twinges of those delicate pedal barometers alleviated by the topical use of some preparation of colchicum. *Bursal* rheumatism will, of course, be most relieved by its use.—*Lond. Med. Gaz.* 16 March, 1839.

16. *Lethe in Venical Paralysis.* By THOMAS LAYCOCK.—I believe it is well known that the tincture and powder of the *meloe vesicatoria*, or cantharis, is very

useful in atony or paralysis of the bladder, especially of hysterical and aged people. I have found, however, that an *emplastrum lyttæ* applied to the loins is equally efficacious, and much more manageable. A female, confined to bed in the last stage of laryngeal phthisis, could not pass urine without raising herself upon her knees. She was at last too weak for the effort, and it became a question how the difficulty could be surmounted. I recommended an *emplastrum lyttæ* to be applied to the loins or sacrum, until she felt able to empty the bladder in the recumbent posture. In half an hour after the application she succeeded. She lived for three or four weeks subsequently, and the plaster was in almost daily use until she died. In most instances from one to two hours elapse before the desired effect is produced; in hysterical retention about the latter period. The plaster is useful in other cases. A man came to the hospital with a catheter in his bladder; he had not made water without it for three weeks. It was removed, and an *emplastrum lyttæ* applied to the sacrum for three or four hours; he never wanted the catheter again, and went away in a week quite well. I am not aware that this method of using the fly is mentioned by authors.—*Ibid.*

17. *Case of Paralysis of the first and second Branches of the Sensitive Root of the fifth pair of Nerves, with remarks.* By D. J. CORRIGAN, M. D., of Dublin. Catharine Goulding, æt. 23, was admitted into the Jervis street Hospital, Dublin, 24th October, 1838. Six months before this date, she fell on her temple against an iron grate, and at the time felt a very acute pain in the part, with numbness in the left side of the head and face. The pain having continued, and her sight in the left eye having grown dim, she took some purgative medicine, and after this she continued pretty well until about two months before admission, when the pain of the temple returned, followed by almost total loss of vision in left eye. On admission, almost total loss of sight in left eye, with a very sluggish iris, a clear and a dilated pupil. She suffered from thirst, loss of appetite, and debility. Her bowels were confined; her tongue was white. The treatment adopted was leeching the temples, blisters to the back of the neck, and mercury pushed to active salivation. These measures greatly alleviated her symptoms, but on the 8th November there was a return of the pain in the temple, with dimness of vision, and followed on the succeeding days by tingling and numbness in the left side of the head, and extending down the face. A blister to the side of the head alleviated these symptoms, and the sight of the left eye continued to improve, but the numbness of face increased; and on the 10th December the following is the report of her state:—

She is slightly salivated (she had been using gr. iij. of pilula hydrargyri ter in die). Over the left side of the scalp and in the ear there is undiminished sensibility, as also in all the portion of the cheek, which is below a line drawn from the angle of the mouth to the lobe of the ear. But in the left half of the forehead, the left eyebrow, around the left eye, and in the anterior part of the left cheek, and in the left half of the nose within and without, and in the left half of the upper lip, there is total loss of sensation; so that in any of those parts the skin may be pricked with a needle without her being conscious of it. In the left half of the upper gum there is also total loss of sensation. In the lower gum the sensation is duller than natural. There is no loss of muscular power in the jaw or eyelid, nor any appearance of paralysis either when the face is at rest or when she speaks. In the left temple there was a circumscribed spot, which was very painful on pressure, and which, when pressed upon, gave her a shooting pain down the cheek. Over this spot she was leech-ed every second day. Her sight improved, the pupil became more active, but the other symptoms remained as before, with the addition that on the 21st December she complained of inability to move the jaw freely on the left side. There is, however, no want of power in the left eyelid. The repeated leeching has diminished the soreness of the temple and improved the sight very much, and she is now rubbing the scalp with tartarized antimony and mercurial ointment, and taking internally 10 grs. of hyd. c. magnesia ter in die.

This case is a valuable addition to our knowledge of the affections of the

nerves of the face, which, until late years, was little better than a web of confusion. To Sir Charles Bell we owe the first clue that has led us out of the labyrinth; and the case before us, of Goulding, deserves a place among those to which we may refer as establishing the sureness of the foundation on which our opinions of the functions of the nerves of the face now rest.

To understand the nature of Goulding's case, it is necessary to recal your attention to the anatomy of the fifth pair of nerves. There is in this case total loss of sensibility of the left side of the forehead, of the left side of the nose, of the left side of the palate, and of the gum of the left half of the upper-jaw, and of the upper-jaw, and of the cheek, as low as the angle of the mouth; while, below a line extending from the angle of the mouth to the lobe of the ear on the same cheek, the sensibility is perfect. There is not the slightest loss of muscular power in any part of the cheek; she has full power over the eyelid, angle of the mouth, buccinator muscles, &c., whether in chewing, sneezing, laughing, &c.

The anatomy of the fifth pair of nerves, will now explain to us this case, which is one of those beautiful instances in which anatomy, physiology, and pathology, mutually throw light on each other. The fifth pair of nerves consist, you will recollect, of two roots; one the sensitive—the other the motor root. The sensitive root, after having formed upon it the Casserian ganglion within the skull, sends off from this ganglion three branches; the first the ophthalmic branch, which is distributed to the parts within the orbit, and which sends off the supra-orbital branches to the skin and integuments of the forehead, with a brush of smaller twigs which are distributed over the inner canthus of the eye and the root of the nose, while the nasal branch is spread over the alæ and tip of the nose. The second branch, the superior maxillary, given off from the Casserian ganglion, leaves the skull through the foramen rotundum, and sends along the infra-orbital canal, in the floor of the orbit—the infra-orbital branch, which passing out to the cheek through the infra-orbital foramen, is then distributed to the anterior part of the cheek to the ala nasi, and twigs of it descend as low as the external angle of the mouth; where they meet those coming up from the foramen mentale. Other twigs of this second branch, the superior maxillary, are distributed to the palate, the gum of the upper jaw, and the interior of the nose.

I have now to turn your attention to the third branch of this sensitive root of the fifth. This branch, setting out also from the Casserian ganglion, leaves the skull by the foramen ovale, in company with the motor root of the fifth pair. This motor root, which has lain in the skull behind the Casserian ganglion, has as yet formed no junction with any portion of the sensitive root; but having passed out through the foramen ovale, in company with the third branch, it then, in the pterygoid fossa, becomes intimately interwoven with this third branch of the sensitive root, and the compound nerve, thus formed, is the inferior maxillary nerve. It is obvious that, according to this account of the anatomy of the fifth pair of nerves, the ophthalmic and superior maxillary nerves being given off by the sensitive root of the fifth before any connection has as yet taken place between the sensitive root and the motor root, the ophthalmic and superior maxillary nerves must be merely sensitive nerves; and that in the event of disease producing paralysis of these nerves, the effect on the parts supplied by them ought to be loss of sensibility alone; and that, as these nerves cannot confer motive power, muscular action should not be disturbed by paralysis of them; and thus exactly we have it in the case before us. There is loss of sensibility in all the parts of the face and interior of the mouth, supplied by those branches, but no loss of muscular power. Thus anatomy and physiology explain to us those symptoms which otherwise would be inexplicable, and again, pathology, more beautifully than a thousand experiments, confirms the accuracy of our anatomical observations, and the truth of our physiology of this nerve.

Sensation, we have seen, is perfect along the lower jaw below a line drawn from the angle of the mouth towards the lobe of the ear. The parts below this line, the skin of the cheek, the chin, and the gum of the lower jaw, are supplied

by the third branch of the fifth, namely, the inferior maxillary nerve. Now, does the preservation of sensibility in the lower part of the cheek, while it is lost in the upper part—or, in other words, does the continuance of function in the third branch of the sensitive root of the fifth, while it is lost in the first and second branch, lead to any practical result in diagnosis and prognosis? With the light of anatomy it does, and to a very important one. It tells us that the disease which has deprived the first and second branches of the fifth of their function of sensibility is not disease of the brain, nor, probably, has it its seat within the cavity of the skull; for if the diseased action attacked the nerve previously to its forming the Casserian ganglion from which all three branches take their origin, then it would be nearly impossible that the function of the third or inferior maxillary branch should not have been equally destroyed with the functions of the other two. Were the disease within the skull, it is also most probable that the motor root of the fifth, which in part of its course lies in very close relation to the sensitive root, should suffer equally. But as the motor trunk and the third branch of the sensitive trunk are not injured, we are justified in concluding that the cause of the paralysis of sensibility of the first and second branches has its seat external to the cavity of the skull, and the diagnosis thus made leads of course to the more favourable prognosis. Thus, anatomy and physiology here lead us both to diagnosis and prognosis. With this instance before you, to show you the value of the observation, let me entreat of you never to lay aside anatomy or physiology in studying practical medicine. How different now is our interest in this case, and how superior our knowledge of it, when we have thus taught ourselves that even in disease the symptoms which present themselves are not the result of mere chance, but are in strict accordance with the laws of healthy action! If there were no other result from this analysis of the symptoms of this case than the attractive investigation of some of the functions of the nervous system, and the conformation of our physiological knowledge, this alone should make us study the symptoms with enthusiastic interest; but when we find that on this analysis depends our knowledge of the nature of the disease, its study then becomes a duty. There is, I am sorry to say, a growing tendency to substitute what is called observation at the bed side for anatomical and physiological investigations of structure and symptoms. Such a doctrine is very acceptable to the ignorant empiric and the indolent student; but to expect to attain sound knowledge by such a course, would be as reasonable as it would be in a mechanist to expect that he could ever attain a knowledge of the derangements of a machine, without bringing to his assistance a knowledge of its structure and its powers.

If we now turn our attention to the inferior maxillary nerve, the third branch of the sixth, and to the portio dura of the seventh, we shall find in the physiology of these nerves an explanation of some curious forms of nervous affections of the face, and to which we find almost nothing analogous in any other part of the body.

The first is that in which the seventh or portio dura alone is paralyzed.

I saw a lady some time since, whose features were undisturbed and free from distortion when at rest, but when she laughed or smiled, the muscles on the right side alone acted, while the left side of the face remained perfectly passive, thus giving to the countenance the hideous expression of half of a living and of a dead face being joined together. In such a case as this the paralysis is confined to the seventh nerve, the motor branch of the fifth being unaffected. While the face is at rest, the motor branches of the fifth at each side neutralize each other, and there is no distortion; but on the seventh or portio dura being called into action as a nerve of expression, the nerve of one side alone acts, and thus this singular form of paralysis is produced.

In contrast with this may be placed a case of paralysis of the third branch of the fifth, the inferior maxillary nerve. The case is from Sir C. Bell's work on the Nervous System.

A man affected with hemiplegia was paralytic of the right side of the face, which was also insensible on being pricked with a needle.

When at rest, the right side of the mouth and the right cheek hung down, and the saliva constantly flowed from it. But when he was made to sneeze, to laugh, or to whistle, the distortion disappeared, and both sides of the face acted equally. Thus these cases are contrasted with one another. In paralysis of the portio dura alone, *there is no paralysis when the muscles of the face are at rest*, but it becomes most disagreeably evident by distortion on giving expression to the face. *In paralysis of the third branch of the fifth there is paralysis of the face when at rest*; but when a respiratory expression calls the seventh into action, the paralysis for the time being disappears.

The most common form of paralysis of the face is when both the third branch of the fifth and the portio dura are simultaneously affected, so that there is paralysis both when the features of the face are at rest, and in the expression of laughing, sneezing, &c. Such is the following case:—

Michael Keefe, admitted into this hospital December 3. About ten days before, he felt his upper lip swelled, and next day perceived that, in attempting to masticate, he could not turn the morsel in the right side of his mouth. On admission his mouth was drawn to the left side; he was unable to close the eyelid of the right eye; he could not whistle, and when he laughed the left side of the face alone acted. In this case both the seventh and the third branch of the fifth of the right side were paralyzed, for there was in the case a combination of the symptoms of the two former cases. There was inability to masticate, and there was distortion of the face when at rest, dependent on paralysis of the third branch of the fifth; and there was also distortion of the face in expression, indicating paralysis of the portio dura.

We have thus the following form of local paralysis of the face:—

1st. Paralysis of sensibility, as in the case now in hospital, the muscular power being unaffected—dependent on disease of first and second branch of the sensic root of the fifth pair of nerves.

2d. Paralysis, not visible when the features are at rest, but most strongly marked when any respiratory expression, such as sneezing, laughing, &c. is attempted—dependent on disease of portio dura.

3d. Paralysis, persistent when the face is at rest, but temporarily suspended when any respiratory expression is attempted—dependent on disease of the third, or compound moto-sensic branch of the fifth.

4th. Paralysis of the face both at rest and in motion, in which both the portio dura and third branch of the fifth are implicated.

For the experiments and some of the cases on which I have grounded these observations, I must refer you to Sir Charles Bell's work on the Nerves. There is, however, in some parts of that work an obscurity, and occasionally an apparent contradiction, which may render its perusal difficult. You will obviate the difficulty by consulting Dr. O'Beirne's analytical correction of Sir Charles Bell's work. It is published as an appendix to Dr. O'Beirne's work on Defecation, and it will well repay you for a perusal. To return to our case in hospital. I have already given my reasons, founded on the immunity of the inferior maxillary nerve, for thinking that in this case the disease is not within the cavity of the cranium, or at least between the Casserian ganglion and the origin of the nerve. It is probable that the injury which this patient received produced periostitis of a subacute or chronic form, and that this, creeping along the temporal surface of the sphenoid bone, has also spread through the sphenomaxillary fissure to the lining membrane of the orbit, and has then involved the first and second branches of the fifth. This view is strengthened by the circumstance of there being still a small space in the upper part of the temporal hollow which is painful under pressure. I shall therefore, for some time longer, continue the same line of treatment under which he at present is, viz. repeated local blood letting and blistering, and the exhibition of a mild course of mercury. The head symptoms, the vertigo, &c. have ceased, the motion of the pupil has become natural, and the sight is much improved, so that we have to contend with only the local tenderness in the temple, and the loss of sensibility of the first and second branches of the fifth.

P. S.—Since the above was delivered, numbness, accompanied with loss of power, began to extend to the lower jaw, showing that the diseased action was beginning to implicate the third, or compound branch of the fifth. The whole head was then rubbed over with antimoniated mercurial ointment and iodine; the amendment was rapid, and she soon after left the hospital with scarcely a trace of the disease.—*London Medical Gazette*, 30th March, 1839.

18. *Pathology and Treatment of Phlegmasia Dolens.*—By JOHN BURNE, M. D. (Extracted from Clinical Lecture delivered at the Westminster Hospital.) In the case of Mary Wiggins, there took place about the fifteenth day of her illness, while she was lying on the back in a state of the greatest prostration and danger, a more or less hard though œdematous swelling of the whole of the left lower extremity from the groin downwards, the swollen limb being white, varied, however, with numerous minute veins in the skin, while none such were apparent in the other limb. The whole of the limb affected was rather tender to the touch, and painful; but the chief pain and tenderness were seated in the groin and antero-internal region of the thigh, where could be felt the femoral vein like a hard cord or bougie, the size of the little finger. The femoral artery pulsated normally on the outer side of this cord-like vein.

Here was a well-defined example of phlegmasia dolens, such as occurs in childbed women. It was distressing to find this disease showing itself at a moment when the exhausted powers of the patient were altogether unequal to cope with any fresh obstacle to recovery, and when, consequently, one could not but expect that it would turn the balance fatally against her.

On account of her prostrate condition it was impossible to have recourse to the local abstraction of blood by leeches—the usual treatment of phlegmasia dolens, nor did any but a soothing treatment suggest itself. While considering this point, Mr. Hale Thomson joined us in the ward, and remarked that he had found benefit in a similar case by suspending the limb from the top of the bedstead, so as to allow the venous circulation of the extremity to be favoured by gravity. The suggestion I adopted at once, and attempts were made to suspend the limb; but the position was insupportable, and the foot and leg, therefore, were merely elevated a few inches on pillows. The effect of even this elevation was, however, most satisfactory. The pain and also the œdematous swelling began to subside forthwith, and the amendment continued uninterruptedly from this period; the cord-like state of the femoral vein diminishing, and the œdema passing away from day to day, till at length complete recovery was effected.

It is only within a very recent period that the pathology of phlegmasia dolens has been understood, it having been established by Dr. David Davis, in an able essay read before the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society in May, 1823, and published in the twelfth volume of the Society's Transactions.

Prior to the discovery of Dr. Davis four theories of the cause and nature of this affection were entertained:—

1. By Mauriceau. “A reflux, determined to those parts of humours, which ought to be evacuated by the lochia.” Also, by Mesnard. “Suppression of the lochia, producing an over-fulness of the blood vessels, and a consequent arrest and coagulation of lymph in the parts affected.”

2. By Puzos. “The celebrated doctrine of metastasis of milk—*dépôts de lait*.”

3. By White and Trye. “Obstructions or other morbid states of the lymphatic organs of the parts affected.”

4. By Dr. Hull. “The proximate cause consists in inflammatory affection, producing suddenly a considerable effusion of serum and coagulated lymph from the exhalents into the cellular membrane of the limb. The seat of the inflammation I believe to be in the muscles, cellular membrane, and inferior surface of the cutis. In some cases, perhaps, the inflammation may be communicated from these parts to the large blood-vessels, nerves, and the lymphatic vessels and glands imbedded in them.”

All these conjectures—they scarcely deserve the name of theories—were disproved by the pathological investigations of Dr. Davis, who discovered that

the large veins of limbs affected with phlegmasia dolens were obstructed by coagula, which adhered to the sides of the veins, and inferred from these appearances, and from the symptoms during life, that inflammation of the veins and consequent obstruction was the proximate cause of the phlegmasia dolens. The white œdematous swelling is merely a dropsical state of the limb resulting from the venous obstruction, the usual cause of local or partial dropsy or œdema.

The cases of Fearn and Wiggins—both true examples of phlegmasia dolens—were characterized by the pain and tenderness in the course of the large veins in the groin—by the cord-like feel of these veins—by the soreness and white œdematous swelling of the whole extremity—symptoms which left no doubt of there being inflammation and obstruction of the veins. In the case of Fearn, who died, we had an opportunity of dissecting the affected limb; and the preparation now before you exhibits the vein and artery taken from it. You here see the common and internal iliac and femoral vein, filled with red coagulum adherent to the sides of the veins, so as to block up the channels and obstruct the circulation of blood through them; thus agreeing with and confirming the dissections and opinions of Dr. Davis, viz: that inflammation and obstruction of the iliac veins and their contributory branches are the cause of phlegmasia dolens.

So far the pathology of phlegmasia dolens may be considered as established; but there is one very important point not yet made out, viz: the *cause of the inflammation of the veins*.

How is it, and why is it, that these particular veins, the iliacs, become affected with inflammation? What excites or induces inflammation in them especially? The cases of Fearn and Wiggins, under consideration, will, I think, afford a satisfactory answer and explanation.

The phlegmasia dolens in both these cases occurred under exactly similar circumstances, both patients being reduced to an extreme degree of prostration, and both lying upon the back, with the limbs outstretched and motionless, which appeared to me so far remarkable as to suggest the notion that both may have depended on a similar cause, and that this possibly was a stagnation of blood in these veins resulting from the languid powers of the venous circulation, producing first congestion, then inflammation, obstruction, and œdema—symptoms collectively constituting phlegmasia dolens.

Again, it struck me as remarkable that, in both these patients, the same limb—the left—was the seat of the affection. This led me to inquire how far any anatomical relations or peculiarities of the iliac veins of the left side, as compared with the right, might exist normally, and aid in retarding the circulation, in the very weak state of these patients. In this inquiry, it certainly does appear that the normal situations of the aorta and cava, and of the iliac arteries and veins, is such as to render the circulation in the left iliac less free than in the right; and although, with this natural arrangement, the circulation of the left iliac may be perfect under the ordinary circumstances of health and exercise, yet, when the powers of life have been reduced to the lowest degree, and when there is an entire absence of all muscular motion, a great aid to the circulation of the blood in these veins, I can then understand that the slight greater difficulty in the circulation of the left iliac might so impede the circulation in this vein as to be the cause of congestion; the congestion, the cause of irritation; the irritation, of inflammation; the inflammation, of complete obstruction; the complete obstruction, of the œdema.

The anatomical relations above alluded to depend particularly on the situation of the right common iliac artery and the left common iliac vein, which cross each other like the letter X.

You will remember that the vena cava inferior lies on the right lateral part of the bodies of the lumbar vertebræ, and that consequently the left common iliac vein, in order to reach the cava, has to traverse the body of the last lumbar vertebra, and in this course passes directly under the right common iliac artery; for the aorta being situated on the left lateral part of the bodies of the lumbar vertebræ, the right common iliac has also to traverse the body of the last lumbar vertebra, in order to reach its destination, the right extremity; and in this course

passes anterior to the left common iliac vein: the vein and artery crossing each other like the letter X, on the body of the vertebra. In this arrangement, the left common iliac vein, as it traverses the vertebra, is subject to pressure from the right common iliac artery, and to counter-pressure from the unyielding vertebra; and when it is remembered that the arteries during life are always full, distended, and cylindrical, it is not unreasonable to believe that the vein, placed between the artery on one hand, and the vertebra on the other, and traversed at an acute angle by the artery, is subjected to more or less pressure, and the current of blood along the vein more or less impeded; an impediment, however, of no moment, except when the powers of the body and of the circulation have been reduced to the lowest ebb, when every trivial difficulty or obstacle proves insurmountable. Moreover, the position in which the patients Fearn and Wiggins lay—namely, on the back, with the legs straight and extended—would, by putting the artery on the stretch, determine pressure on the vein; for the arteries taking the shortest course, and being elastic, longitudinally as well as transversely, are stretched when the limbs are extended, and relaxed where they are bent.

This view is borne out by the treatment which, in the case of Wiggins, was found to be efficacious—namely, the elevation of the limb; which had the double effect of favouring the return of blood by giving the venous circulation the advantage of gravity, and of relaxing the iliac artery, and so removing whatever impediment may have been offered by it.

Now, gentlemen, having concluded, from the contemplation of these two cases, that the anatomical relations of the large blood-vessels of the left extremity were in part the cause of the phlegmasia dolens, and were the reason why the disease took place in the left rather than in the right extremity, I was curious to ascertain how far the cases recorded by others agreed in this respect or otherwise; for if the above opinion is well-founded, the phlegmasia dolens ought to occur in the left rather than in the right extremity: this I find to be exactly the case. For example,

One case, recorded by Zinn, occurred in the right only.

Four cases are recorded by Dr. Davis, and in all of these the left was the extremity affected.

Five cases are recorded by Dr. Lee, in all of which the left extremity was affected. In one, the right was affected also.

Three cases are recorded by Velpeau, in all of which the left extremity was affected. In two of these, the right was affected also.

Seven cases are recorded by Bonillaud, in all of which the left extremity was affected. In three, the right was affected also.

No. Case.		Extremity.	Extremity.
1.—I.	By Gottfray Zinn	Right.	—
2.—I.	By Dr. D. Davis	—	Left.
3.—II.	“ “	—	Left.
4.—III.	“ “	—	Left.
5.—IV.	“ “	—	Left.
6.—I.	By Dr. Lee	—	Left.
7.—II.	“	Right and Left.	—
This case commenced with varicose veins in right extremity during the last two months of pregnancy.			
8.—III.	“	—	Left.
9.—IV.	“	—	Left.
10.—V.	“	—	Left.
11.—I.	By Bouillaud, from pressure of a tumour	Right and Left.	—
12.—II.	“ “ “ “	Right and Left.	—
13.—III.	“ “ “ “	Right and Left.	—
14.—IV.	“ “ from Fièvre ataxique	—	Left.

No. Case.				Extremity.	Extremity.
15.—V.	By Bouillaud	from phthisis	- -	—	Left.
16.—VI.	"	" abscess	- -	—	Left.
17.—VII.	"	" phthisis	- -	—	Left.
18.—I.	By Velpeau	- - - -	- -	—	Left.
19.—II	"	- - - -	- -	Right and Left.	
In this case there was abscess in the body of the uterus.					
23.—III	"	- - - -	- -	Right and Left.	

SUMMARY.

	Right only.	Left only.	Right and Left.	Total.
Zinn -	1	0	0	1.
Davis -	0	4	0	4
Lee -	0	4	1	5
Bouillaud	0	4	3	7
Velpeau -	0	1	2	3
	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 13	<hr/> 6	<hr/> 20

By a further analysis of these cases, we shall find that, in nineteen out of the twenty the left extremity was affected; but in six of these the right was affected also. That in the twentieth case, where the right extremity only was affected, the disease was produced by a special cause—viz: "some of the inguinal glands scirrhous, greatly enlarged, and surrounding the femoral vein, by which its diameter was very much diminished."

That in the six cases, in which the right extremity was affected as well as the left, there was a special cause, a tumour; in three, viz: Nos. 11, 12, 13, an abscess in body of uterus; in one, No. 19, and in another, No. 7, the case commenced in the right extremity during the last two months of pregnancy, with varicose veins. Whereas, in all the cases, except No. 20, which have occurred after delivery, or which have not been produced by a special cause, the disease has occurred in the left in preference to the right extremity.

That in three of the cases, Nos. 14, 15, 17, in which there was excessive prostration of the vital powers, and which are, therefore, analogous to the cases of Fearn and Wiggins, the disease took place, as in them, in the left extremity.

From all this evidence, then, it may be inferred, that phlegmasia dolens is more generally seated in the *left* extremity, and almost universally so when it happens under circumstances of great prostration of the vital powers, or after delivery.

That where it is seated in the right extremity only, or in the right as well as the left, there is some special cause, as tumour, &c., in operation.

Causes.—Although, then, we may, I think, be justified in believing that the anatomical relations of the left iliac vein, and of the right iliac artery, may be the cause of phlegmasia dolens in the left extremity, where the powers of the body are very weak, we must not forget that other causes may lead to the same result. During labour, for instance, it is the custom for women to lie on the left side, often for hours together, most injudiciously; and the same position is frequently maintained, even after delivery. Now, in this position, one can understand that the left iliac vein may be subjected to pressure from the uterus, both before and after delivery, and the venous circulation of the extremity be impeded, and thus phlegmasia dolens be induced. So also may a similar effect be produced by an accumulation of feces in the sigmoid flexure of the colon.

Whatever, then, impedes or obstructs the return of blood along the large veins of either or of both the lower extremities, may be regarded as the remote cause of phlegmasia dolens; and the three causes just enumerated appear to determine the greater frequency of disease in the left than in the right lower extremity.

The *treatment*, according to the above views of the pathology of phlegmasia dolens, should be based on the principle of removing or obviating the cause, and

of facilitating the return of blood along the veins; for as the inflammation of the veins has been shown to depend on congestion of blood from obstruction, it would be injudicious to direct measures solely to the subdual of the inflammation without reference to the cause of it. Besides, in cases, such as form the subject of this lecture, where the powers of life are nearly exhausted, antiphlogistic measures could not be pursued. The abstraction of blood, even by a single leech, could not be justified. We have seen how efficacious and successful the principle of treatment I have just advocated was in the case of Wiggins, where, by elevating the limb and thus relaxing the iliac artery, and at the same time favouring the return of blood along the veins, the disease at once subsided without any other aid. Now had not this treatment been suggested and followed, we must have contented ourselves with the use of fomentations, for leeches were not admissible; and it is more than probable that the disease, in her weak state, would have turned the balance against her, and led to a fatal result, as in the case of Fearn. This treatment is applicable in all cases, and will probably be successful in those arising from debility, and auxiliary in the others, if adopted sufficiently early; but if inflammation has already gone to such an extent as entirely to obstruct the large veins, then its success will be less complete.

You must bear in mind the absolute necessity of ascertaining the cause, and of endeavouring to remove it. If the cause was pressure of the womb, remove it by change of position; if pressure from a loaded state of the sigmoid flexure of the colon, evacuate the bowels; if pressure from a tumour, attention should be directed to it; and as the cause admits of removal or otherwise, so will the cure be easily or with difficulty effected.

As regards the phlebitis, or inflammation of the veins, it will subside if the circulation can be restored by a relaxed and elevated position of the limb; but if, for reasons before mentioned, it should continue, as indicated by tenderness and pain in the course of the veins in the groin, then local blood-letting by leeches should be had recourse to as far as the strength will permit. Dr. Davis is of opinion that general bleeding is "decidedly objectionable," in which I entirely agree. He suggests gentle bandaging—a plan worthy of a trial in cases where there is no permanent cause, as a tumour.

The experience afforded by the cases of Fearn and Wiggins, has enabled us to arrive at the primary cause, and so to perfect the pathology of phlegmasia dolens, by regarding the inflammation of the veins as secondary. It has enabled us also to determine that the first object in the treatment should be to favour and facilitate the return of blood along the veins, which may of itself frequently attain the second, namely, the subdual of the inflammation.

The pathology of the disease then stands thus:—

1. Congestion from some impediment. 2. Irritation. 3. Inflammation. 4. Complete obstruction. 5. Œdema.

The principle of treatment: 1. To favour the return of blood by suspending or elevating the limb. 2. To combat the inflammation, if necessary, by local bleeding, consistent with the strength of the patient.

Any of you who desire to make yourselves further acquainted with the disease, may consult Dr. Hull's Essay on Phlegmasia Dolens, 1800; Dr. Davis's Essay in the 12th volume of the Transactions of the Medical and Chirurgical Society; Dr. R. Lee's paper in 15th volume of ditto; Velpeau, (Phlegmasia Dolens,) Archives Générales de Médecine, tome vi; Bouillaud: Obliteration des Veines; Archives Générales de Médecine, tome ii. p. 188.—*Lond. Med. Gaz.* 16th March, 1839.

19. *Treatment of Quinsy by Scarification.* By M. GERARDIN.—M. Velpeau, in his *Traité d'Anatomie Chirurgicale*, distinguishes two species of inflammation in the tonsils, one limited to the mucous membrane, the other situated in the submucous cellular tissue. It is important to recognize these two different seats of the disease. The examination of the throat will be sufficient to determine whether the mucous tissue or the cellular be attacked; and this diagnosis is indispensable, since the treatment which may prove successful in the one case would be detrimental in the other. Perhaps it is to the want of this distinction,

that the experience of one practitioner has been contradicted by another: for instance, in the use of alum gargles; which have proved advantageous in the mucous inflammations, but have increased the pain and inflammatory symptoms in the parenchymatous disease.

The application of leeches to the submaxillary region occasions often a local subcutaneous effusion in the neighbourhood of the inflamed tonsils; and it is to be lamented that this remedy should still be the common routine prescription with the generality of practitioners; for the physician is often called in only after one or two applications of leeches have preceded him. In every quinsy, whether mucous or parenchymatous, if the state of the subject be plethoric, I first bleed from the arm, and some minutes afterwards, I proceed to scarify the inflamed parts. It is rarely necessary to recur to this operation more than twice. In the most intense parenchymatous quinsies the disease yields to two scarifications made within twelve or twenty-four hours of each other. The swelling subsides directly, the patient feels great relief, which he does not fail to express. The scarifications are to be made more or less deep, according to the seat of the inflammation; if the cynanche is mucous, I slightly scarify all the parts reddened by the inflammation, the tonsils, the palate, and the uvula: if the disease is parenchymatous, I make deeper scarifications, particularly in the tonsils. I puncture the surface as long as the flowing blood will permit me to see: and, after it has cleared away, as the operation is not painful, I complete the scarifications on the untouched parts. In the parenchymatous quinsy, twelve or fifteen punctures will afford a sufficient bleeding. Under the influence of the scarifications, the resolution of the inflammation is prompt and invariable, and takes place almost always the day after the operation. After some time, there will be observed small white lines—the cicatrices of the punctures. I know of no objections to this practice, but the difficulty of getting at the seat of the disease, or when the intensity of the inflammation prevents the opening of the jaws. Boyer speaks strongly of scarifications in cynanche tonsillaris, but only as an occasional operation. It is remarkable that he should not have recommended them more generally, after using these words: “by scarification the alarming progress of the symptoms is arrested, and a prompt relief is given to the state of anxiety under which the patient labours.” I scarify at the commencement of the inflammation, or at its height, according to the time of my arrival.

I have also recourse to scarifications in laryngitis and pharyngitis, and always with the greatest success. They are certainly more efficacious than cupping, and avoid the marks in the neck. *B. & F. Med. Rev.* April, 1839; from *Bulletin de l'Acad. Roy. de Méd.* No. 1. 1838.

20. *Use of Caustic Issues in Phthisis Pulmonalis.*—M. BRICHTEAU has for some years past been in the habit of using, with very decided advantage, caustic issues, formed immediately below one or both clavicles, in cases of pulmonary consumption; even when the disease is far advanced, and auscultation has indicated the existence of tuberculous caverns in the lungs. That a powerful local derivative, like an issue, may have a decided influence in arresting at least the progress of morbid action, however serious, in an internal viscus, is well known to every medical man; and that in many cases it has this effect on the softening and ulceration of tuberculated lungs cannot, in M. Bricheteau's opinion, be gainsayed by any unprejudiced observer of his practice at the Hôpital Necker. Even where an absolute cure is not obtained, a great mitigation, and often a marked retardation, of the disease follows the establishment of caustic issues below the clavicles—provided always the rest of the treatment be at the same time judicious and appropriate.

We shall very briefly mention the histories of two cases recently treated in the hospital.

A young married woman was admitted in the following state on the 8th of June, 1837.

She was distressed with cough, puriform expectoration, copious sweats, and vomiting after the fits of coughing: there was a sharp stitchy pain felt over the right side of the chest. On examining the chest with the stethoscope a distinct

gurgling sound was audible beneath the right clavicle; the respiration was cavernous behind; and these two symptoms became more marked, when the patient coughed; there was considerable dulness on percussion beneath the right clavicle. The patient was so weak that she could not walk about.

A large caustic issue was established immediately under the right clavicle, and demulcent medicines and diet were prescribed.

This treatment was persevered in for six or seven weeks; and by that time most of the unfavourable symptoms had disappeared, and the woman began to recover her flesh and strength. Ultimately she did well.

CASE 2.—A middle-aged woman had, after repeated attacks of hemoptysis, become affected with all the usual symptoms of pulmonary consumption—cough, copious puriform expectoration, night sweats, and diarrhoea. She was considered by the physicians of La Charité hospital to be decidedly phthisical. Under the use of a large caustic issue beneath the right clavicle, and appropriate attention to the most troublesome existing symptoms, this woman regained her health so well, that in the course of two months she was able to leave the hospital, and soon after resumed her occupation of a washerwoman.

At a subsequent period this woman was admitted for a syphilitic affection. Her pulmonary symptoms had not returned. On auscultating the chest, the respiratory murmur was found to be very feeble under the right clavicle, and there was considerable dulness on percussion over that point. Posteriorly the sounds indicated the adhesion of the pulmonary pleura to the ribs.—*La Lanquette Française*.

21. Inflammation of the Umbilical Vein in Infants.—M. Oslander, Meckel, and Sasse were the first who described phlebitis of the umbilical cord. M. DUPLAY has recently had an opportunity of examining several cases of it at the Hôpital des Enfants trouvés at Paris; and the following is a brief abstract of his paper in a late number of the *L'Esperance*.

In his *first* case, that of an infant which died on the fifth day after birth, purulent matter was found in the umbilical vein from the navel to its entrance into the liver: the small intestines exhibited here and there points of inflammation and ulceration.

In the *second* case—neither the age, nor the symptoms present during life are mentioned—the umbilical vein was found full of pus, and its parietes were somewhat thickened: the umbilical arteries also contained pus. Purulent matter was found in both auditory passages, and likewise under the arachnoid membrane. Both pleuræ were coated with pseudo-membranous pellicles of recent deposit.

Third Case. An infant died on the tenth day after birth, having been affected from the fourth day with colic pains, diarrhoea, vomiting, and meteorism of the abdomen. The peritoneum was found on dissection to be inflamed and partially coated with a membranous deposit, and there was a sero-purulent effusion in the abdominal cavity. The branches of the vena portæ, and especially the umbilical vein, exhibited a preternatural turgescence: this was found to be owing not so much to congestion, as to a thickening of their parietes. The trunk of the umbilical vein was a full line in the thickness of its walls, and its branches were even more remarkably affected. The cavities of all these vessels were coated internally with membranous deposit.

In the *fourth* case; the infant died on the seventh day after birth, after having suffered from severe pain in the bowels, vomiting, icterus, &c.

On dissection, all the morbid changes characteristic of peritonitis, were discovered: the umbilical vein and its branches were thickened, and lined with purulent matter internally.

Case fifth.—An infant died on the third day after birth, in consequence of an erysipelatous affection of the body.

The intestines and liver were found to be inflamed, coated with lymph, and also with a puriform exudation. The umbilical vein, from the navel to its insertion in the liver, was filled with yellow pus.

In the sixth case, the infant was affected with symptoms of icterus, purulent ophthalmia, and an erysipelatous affection of the face, having a tendency to gangrene here and there: it died on the tenth day after birth.

Along with certain morbid changes in other parts, the umbilical vein was found to be filled with puriform matter, and to have its parietes considerably thickened.

General Remarks.—Our knowledge of the history of phlebitis of the umbilical cord is too imperfect to warrant us in speaking, with any certainty, on any of its characters or features.

As to the cause of disease, M. Sasse and others have attributed it to the irritation arising from the ligature of the cord, and from the ungentle attempts, sometimes made, to squeeze the blood out from it.

The consequences or effects of the lesion seem to be usually peritonitis, icterus, and rapid exhaustion of the vital energies.—*Med. Obs. Rev. from L'Esperience.*

22. *Case of Laryngitis, complicated with Bronchocle, in which the external application of Croton Oil was successfully employed.* By A. CAMPBELL, M. D.—
“March 26, 1834. A table-attendant, aged 19, strong and healthy, complains of considerable pain in the region of the larynx, with a feeling of extreme tightness, and incessant desire to cough. The voice is weak, unmodulated, and disagreeably hoarse on attempting to speak; he finds it difficult to produce vocal sounds, but, after expiring forcibly, the voice is elicited. There is no fever, or quickening of the pulse. No pain in the thorax, nor are the bronchi affected. Five days ago, he first observed the commencement of the above symptoms, which have continued to increase until now, when he is nearly aphonic, and much distressed by the constant necessity to cough. There is no pain or fever on firm pressure of the larynx, nor is there any appearance of inflammation in the pharynx; there exists a distinct enlargement of both thyroid glands; the swellings are soft, elastic, and fleshy, each the size of a small apricot; has not previously been affected with goitre, and was not aware of the presence of that disease when he applied for relief. He attributes the laryngitis to exposure during the night, as he was at the time of attack accustomed to sleep in the open air. The following mixture was directed to be made, and rubbed on the throat for half an hour twice a day: R—Ol. Croton ℥i; Ol. Olive ℥j.—M. The throat to be covered with a flannel bandage.

“March 26th.—A crop of pustules have appeared on the neck; pain of larynx diminished; hoarseness continues.

“The croton oil frictions to be continued.

“April 1st.—The external larynx raw and ulcerated; voice restored to its natural tone; pain gone; goitre remains; discontinue medicine.

“April 15th.—Integuments of throat healed, and goitre completely disappeared.

“The efficacy of croton oil in removing laryngitis is too well known, I believe, to require further corroboration; consequently, the interest of this case (if it has any) consists in the manner in which the goitre was affected by the croton oil. During the removal of the disease in the larynx, the goitre was apparently unaffected; but, at the expiration of fifteen days from the cure of the laryngitis, and from the suspension of medicinal treatment, the enlargement of the thyroid glands entirely disappeared.

“Should future trials with croton oil prove, that it is efficacious in removing goitre, the result will be one of great importance, as the enormous expense of iodine renders its general use (in countries where goitre prevails to a great extent) quite out of the question.”—*Transactions Med. & Phys. Society, Ontario*, vol. viii, part i.

23. *Epidemic Scarlet Fever as it occurred in Edinburgh in 1835-36.* Scarlet Fever has been so frequently prevalent and so fatal a disease in this country, that whatever is calculated to throw any light upon its nature or treatment, has the strongest claims to our attention. An abstract, therefore, of some of the accounts

of this disease as it occurred in Edinburgh in 1835-36 cannot; but be acceptable to our readers.* As we shall deem it of consequence, to dwell to a degree of minuteness which some will consider tiresome, upon those facts which elucidate the precise character and violence of the epidemic, it is best at once to state that this course seems to us necessary for the appreciation of remedies, or of any course of treatment. It is unquestionably the neglect of first determining these points, which has given rise to so many errors and such contradictory statements relative to the value of particular remedies and plans of treatment; and which has often led practitioners to ascribe the small mortality occurring in their practice to the measures pursued, when in fact, it was entirely due to the mildness of the epidemic, or of the particular cases which fell under their treatment.

Some cases of Scarlet Fever occurred in Edinburgh in July, 1835, but it was not until later in the year that it prevailed to any extent. Towards the end of autumn, and still more during the winter and spring months, Mr. Wood states, in an interesting paper in the *Edinburgh Med. and Surg. Journ.* (January, 1837),¹ that it was very generally diffused over the city and neighbourhood, raging in the form of a very widely spread and severe epidemic; attacking, in its course, a great many persons of all ranks and ages, and of both sexes, and proving fatal in a great many instances. It is a remarkable circumstance that the fever extended nearly as rapidly, proved as severe, and was as destructive of life, in the families of the higher ranks, living in large houses, in open airy situations, as in those of the lower, crowded together in small airless dwellings, in narrow streets and lanes. Indeed, I have some reason to think, from accounts I have received from my medical friends, that even a larger proportion of the sufferers from the fever in the higher ranks have fallen a sacrifice to it, than in the lower during this epidemic. The fever became less frequent as the summer advanced, and assumed rather a milder character, but it has continued to prevail to a considerable extent, both in the town and neighbourhood, down to the present time; and it has lately proved fatal, and that very rapidly in some cases. During the existence of the fever in Edinburgh, it has been met with in almost all the towns, and in many parts of the country, both in Scotland and in England; and I am told also in some parts of the continent of Europe, and of America."

Below will be found abstracts of the accounts of the disease as it appeared in some of the Charitable Institutions of Edinburgh.

94. *Account of Scarlet Fever as it occurred in George Heriot's Hospital, Edinburgh.* By Wm. Wood, F. R. S. E.—Scarlet Fever appeared in this institution early in January, 1836, and continued to prevail there till the month of March. During the whole of this period, the weather was remarkably bad, there being many great and sudden alternations of heat and cold; much rain, hail and snow, following each other in rapid succession, and frequent gales of wind. It reappeared in November, and in December, there was one boy convalescent from an attack.

This hospital contained when the epidemic made its appearance, 180 boys from the age of 8 to 14; 17 female and 10 male adults, making a family of 207 individuals. There were in the hospital two rooms for the exclusive use of the sick, large, well heated and ventilated, each capable of containing more than 19 boys in separate beds. There was a well constructed warm bath, in a small room adjoining to and directly communicating with each of these sick wards; and from an early period of the epidemic water was kept constantly boiling, so that a bath of any required temperature could be had immediately when wanted. There is also another room, capable of containing more than 6 boys in separate beds, which was employed, in the first instance for the reception of the invalids until the nature of their disease was satisfactorily ascertained; and it was afterwards used for the accommodation of the convalescents.

* Some account of this epidemic has already been given in this Journal, (Feb. 1837, p. 40), et seq., but further details will be interesting, inasmuch as the experience of different practitioners is far from being in accordance as to the treatment which proved most successful.—Ed.

Upon the first appearance of the Fever in the hospital means were used to arrest, if possible, its progress, but without success. It spread rapidly, and by the end of a month, 31 of the boys had been attacked with it; in another month 5 more, and in addition to these cases, the house governor became affected with fever and sore throat, bearing all the characters of scarlatina although he had had the disease when a boy, and the sick nurse suffered from a similar illness. With the case which occurred in November, there were in all 45 well marked cases of the fever.

"The boys, in the early part of the year, came into the sick room very indiscriminately from the five sleeping wards; but, on the whole, as was to be expected, more of the younger, than of the older suffered from the disease. A good many of the bed-fellows of those who took the fever remained free from all complaint, although some of them had not been previously affected with it. Of the seven boys who were taken ill towards the end of the year, four came from the sleeping ward for the younger boys, and all of them had been admitted into the hospital in the month of June, after the fever had left it for a time. Independently of the forty-five cases of fever above alluded to, several of the boys and female servants of the institution suffered from a greater or less degree of sore throat, with slight fever, but these were not reckoned cases of scarlatina, as they did not exhibit any very characteristic marks of that fever; although it is not improbable that, in some of them, the illness was a modification of the disease, produced by exposure to contagion.

"Of the forty-five persons who were considered to have passed through the fever in a distinctly marked form on this occasion, thirty-eight were understood not to have had it previously; five to have had it; and no information could be procured with respect to the other two. One only of the boys who had been affected with the disease in the hospital during the epidemic of 1832-33, took it in that of 1835-36, although many of them were still inmates of the house; and it is rather remarkable, that this boy was Daniel Mathieson, mentioned in my former communication, as having been attacked during his convalescence from well-marked *Scarlatina anginosa*, while still exposed to the contagion in the sick-room, with a renewal of fever and sore throat, attended with a renewed eruption, bearing all the characters of scarlet fever. He happened to be in the sick-room with slight inflammatory sore throat, at the time when the first patient was brought there with the fever in January, 1836, was thus exposed to the contagion, and returned to it in the course of about thirteen or fourteen days, labouring under fever, eruption, and sore throat; but with him, on this occasion, the disease was of a very mild nature.

"The fever in the hospital has proved unfortunately to be a very severe one, and four of the boys have fallen a sacrifice to it. In this, as indeed in all epidemics, even in those of the most malignant character, the disease has been mild, in a considerable proportion of the cases, and attended with little or no danger; in others, the symptoms have been alarming, occasionally from an early stage of the complaint, and very little under the control of medical practice."

No case was met with in the hospital during the epidemics of 1804, of 1832-33, or of 1835-36, of that form of the disease in which there is fever with scarlet eruption distinctly marked, but without any affection of the throat (*S. simplex* WILLAN), and Mr. Wood thinks that the existence of true scarlatina without some affection of the throat is a rare occurrence; and that upon careful inspection this part will be generally found more or less inflamed.

Mr. Wood is disposed to believe, that an erroneous opinion may have been formed as to the frequency of its occurrence from the state of the throat having been overlooked, in consequence of being slight and attended with but little pain. Mr. W. says he has frequently detected swelling and inflammation, and occasionally also superficial ulceration of the throat, in persons, who on previous inquiry, would not allow that they had either pain or uneasiness in it.

By far the greater number of cases were of that variety in which, along with fever and eruption, there are more or less swelling and inflammation, and frequently some degree of ulceration of the throat (*S. anginosa*) one or two of

the cases might be referred to the variety termed *S. maligna*, but this last Mr. C. considers as differing from the former merely in degree. In only one case was there any degree and that a slight one, of the foul fetid sore of the throat, which is generally an attendant on the fever in its most malignant form. In all thirty-five of the patients may be classed under the heads of *S. anginosa* and *maligna*. In ten, the fever was attended with sore throat, without eruption, (*S. faucium*, *Twain*); in some of these the patient had never before had the disease, in others they had been affected with it at a former time. "There is no reason to doubt," Mr. W. thinks "that the affection in these last cases, is produced by exposure to the contagion; that it seems to bear the same relation to scarlatina that secondary does to primary small-pox; although it proves, occasionally, as severe a complaint as in its original form and the same severity has been remarked in some of those cases, in which the disease appears, for a second time in its perfect form, of fever, eruption and sore throat. I have not been able to satisfy myself, whether persons affected with this secondary form of scarlatina, are capable of communicating to others that disease in all its varieties; but I am rather disposed to think so; at all events, there seems no reason to doubt, that they are capable of communicating that kind of sore throat which is generally attended with white specks on the tonsils. Of the thirty-five cases of the fever, belonging to the varieties denominated *scarlatina anginosa* and *scarlatina maligna*, four were said to have been previously affected with the disease in one form or another; and amongst them one of the boys in whom it proved fatal; thirty were understood not to have previously suffered from it; and in regard to the other, no information could be procured. Of the ten cases of *scarlatina faucium*, two were believed to have been previously affected with it; seven not, and in one it was a matter of doubt. One of the boys, who was attacked with fever, sore throat, and eruption, on the 31st of January, and was reported to be convalescent on the 2d of February, though still confined to the convalescent room, had a renewed attack of sore throat and fever, preceded by cold shivering, on the 9th of that month. There was much redness and swelling of the tonsils, and one of the submaxillary glands was much enlarged; but there was no eruption. The symptoms of the fever have been, with a few exceptions, the same with those detailed in my former communication; but have been met with in different degrees of severity, and in varied combinations, in the different epidemics, and individuals. In general, the fever in the hospital, in 1836, has had much more of a typhoid type than in 1832-33; the first stage has been more distinctly marked, and of longer duration; there has been much depression of spirits, with languor, lassitude, and great general uneasiness; total loss of appetite, and nausea, attended occasionally with frequent vomiting; in one of the cases there was early in the disease some degree of diarrhoea; but this was not a common symptom.

"In the first stage there have been often also regular fits of cold shivering, the head ache, and the pulse has been frequent, but languid. Sometimes there has been, from the first appearance of the symptoms, a degree of swelling and redness of the throat, with white specks on the tonsils. The vomiting has been frequently continued in the second stage, and in it the pulse has become much quickened, but languid, it has been very seldom under 120 beats in a minute, and often very considerably above that. The eruption, in the cases in which it has been present, has come out rather slowly, and partially over the body at first, and has been, in general, of a less bright-red colour than during the former epidemic. The rash in one of the boys, who died with strongly marked typhoid fever, assumed an appearance which I have always found to indicate a very dangerous state of the disease; it was of rather a pale-red colour on most parts of the body; but there were many large patches of the skin of a purplish or claret colour; and the fingers, wrists, and lower parts of the fore-arm, as well as the toes, feet and ankles, were tinted of the same colour, giving to the extremities very much the appearance of their having been immersed in a light-coloured infusion of logwood. At the same time, the fingers and toes were swelled; but this was a different affection from the rheumatic swellings which

have been frequently met with during the present epidemic, and from the œdematous swellings, so common as sequelæ of the fever. In the boy who was first taken ill, there appeared, on the second day of the disease, along with the general rash, which was at first of a pale-red colour, and only partially diffused, a number of small elevated red papulæ, giving an appearance to the skin very like that which is sometimes met with in the early stages of *small-pox*, when there occurs along with the pustular eruption, a *roseolous* rash. The general appearance, indeed, was so similar in this case, that it led to some doubt for a day in regard to the real nature of the disease. The heat of the surface of the body, after the reaction, has been generally less than is usual during *scarlatina*; and there has been a tendency to cold shivering, produced by any part of the surface of the body being exposed to the air. The sleep has been confused, and there has been often delirium, the approach of which was marked, in one or two of the boys, by a peculiar quickness in their movements, and the unnatural rapidity with which they answered questions put to them. In one of the fatal cases the delirium was of a violent kind, and the patient was disposed not only to leave his bed, but also to strike the friends who were in attendance on him. The breathing has been generally quick, and attended, in some of the severe cases, with frequent short sighs. In all the patients the throat has been more or less affected. The inflammation has been generally of a dark-red colour, with white specks; and it has sometimes extended downwards along the pharynx, and even in all probability affected the œsophagus, and upwards to the roof of the mouth, into the cavities of the nose, and also into the ear by the Eustachian tube. In many cases there has been ulceration of the tonsils, more or less deep; but in none has there been any extensive sloughing. A quantity of tough dirty-white mucus has been generally accumulated on the back part of the fauces, and in the neighbourhood of the glottis, producing much painful irritation, and troublesome short cough. The tongue has been commonly moist, and loaded, with red papillæ projecting through a brownish-yellow crust, and it has been red and tender along its margins; sometimes it has been of a dark-red or purplish colour, but clean, occasionally glossy; and in some cases, towards the end of the fever, it has become superficially ulcerated. The mucous membrane lining the nose and eyelids was inflamed in one or two of the cases, and discharged an acrid fluid, which produced ulceration of the lips and surrounding parts. Some of the cervical glands were generally more or less enlarged, and painful to the touch. The recovery of the invalids has been commonly slow. In some cases in the course of the present epidemic, as in that of 1804 and 1833, the pulse has been found, for many successive days, during the period of convalescence, considerably slower than natural, when the patients seemed in all respects well. This happened at a time when they were still confined to bed, and were living almost entirely on milk and vegetable food.

Such have been the symptoms of the fever in the hospital during the present epidemic, and these have been met with in very different degrees of severity, and in various combinations, in the different cases. Four of the forty-five patients have died; three of them from the *primary* and *direct effects* of the fever, and one from its *indirect* and *secondary* consequences. I shall afterwards give a full account of these cases; but I may here mention, that one of the boys died unexpectedly, in little more than forty-eight hours from the first attack, without the occurrence of any symptoms of malignancy, or indication of danger, or without any appearances having been discovered on dissection to explain the cause of death. Another expired in little more than thirty-six hours, in exactly similar circumstances. In both these cases the symptoms were those of *scarlatina anginosa*, and a state of collapse took place very soon after the disease commenced. In a third, the fever lasted till the seventh day, when the boy sunk, after having suffered from all the symptoms of the disease, in its most *malignant* form, with the exception of there having been no very severe or serious affection of the throat. The fever partook in him, very strongly, of the typhoid type; the general eruption was rather pale, and there were large patches of the skin of a light claret colour; the extremities had a uniform tint of the same

colour, and the fingers and toes were swelled. There was much delirium, occasionally of a violent nature, and requiring the use of a strait jacket; the eyes were red. In the fourth fatal case, the symptoms were those of severe *scarlatina anginosa*; for although there was much fever, with great restlessness, general uneasiness and delirium, there was not that appearance of the eruption and of the throat which is generally supposed to mark the *scarlatina maligna*. The boy was ill for thirty-three days, during which he was occasionally better and worse, and his death seemed to be caused by a diseased state of the bronchial and mesenteric glands, with probably some organic derangement of the parts in the vicinity of the glottis, as we were led to suppose, from the nature of the cough, which was a very painful and distressing symptom; but we had no opportunity of ascertaining the accuracy or inaccuracy of this opinion, as leave to inspect the body was refused by the friends.

"The principal *indirect* or *secondary* affections, produced by the fever, have been *dropsical effusions* in various parts of the body, and *rheumatic affections* of the joints, which have been unusually frequent during the present epidemic. There has been no suppuration of the external glands in any of the patients, and of the ear in one only; and it was a very slight affection, and gave little trouble.

"In eight of the forty-five cases, more or less œdema has been observed; in five of them, it was unattended with any disagreeable effects; but in three, there were severe and strongly marked symptoms of affection of the head and chest. In none of the eight cases has the fever been very severe in its primary stages; in most of them it has been mild, and in all there has been a distinctly marked eruption. In none of the seven boys who were affected with the fever in the months of November and December was it followed by dropsical effusions. The œdema appeared some time after the fever had subsided, and while the patients were considered to be convalescent. It has been occasionally observed in the face alone, and when it affected the hands and feet, as was the case in one of the patients, it began in the face, took place next in the hands, and then in the feet. The average period from the commencement of the disease, at which the dropsical symptoms came on, in the eight cases, was nineteen days, the earliest being seventeen, and the latest twenty-two; and, in this respect, there is a remarkable coincidence with what was observed in the nine boys who suffered from the same affection in the hospital in 1832-33.*

"In all the dropsical cases, the urine was coagulable, to a greater or less extent, by the application of heat, and it was of a less specific gravity than usual. This was satisfactorily ascertained by many trials made by my friend Professor Christison, who took an anxious interest in the investigation. The coagulable urine was unnatural in colour, occasionally resembling whey, and its appearance was generally so peculiar, that it was easy to prognosticate, from that alone, whether it would or would not be found to be coagulable. In some of the patients, it was of a red colour, from a mixture of blood, very much resembling water in which meat had been washed; and it went through various shades of red and brown, before it assumed a healthy appearance. During the presence of œdema, the urine was small in quantity, and in one case, the secretion seemed to be nearly suspended for a short time. The diminished specific gravity and coagulability of the urine remained in one of the boys for a considerable time after the dropsical symptoms had disappeared, when he seemed to be totally free from disease, and was engaged in his usual avocations. In some cases the œdema was evidently caused by imprudent exposure to cold; and more particularly to a current of cold air, during the period of convalescence. In one, it was brought on by a window of the convalescent room having been opened, for a very short time, by one of the boys, for the purpose of speaking to a com-

* "Its first appearance," according to Dr. Wells, "is generally on the twenty-second or twenty-third day after the commencement of the preceding fever;" and he adds, "it may come on as early as the sixteenth day. . . . and its attack may be delayed to the twenty-fifth."—*Transactions of a Society for the Improvement of Medical and Chirurgical Knowledge*, Vol. iii. p. 168.

patient on the outside of the house. In other instances, however, it came on before the patients had been allowed to leave their beds; and when the most unremitting attention had been paid by the nurses to prevent any improper exposure. The dropsical affections had all the characters of that disease in its acute form; the swellings were more elastic to the touch, and pitted much less on pressure than in cases where they arise from debility, and are the effects of organic derangement of the internal viscera. In the five patients, in whom there were no unpleasant symptoms connected with the dropsical swellings, these were observed in the face alone. In two, in whom there were symptoms of affection of internal parts, they were also confined to the face; but in the third, they appeared in the face, hands, and feet in succession. The symptoms of affection of the head and chest were very similar to those produced by effusion of serum or other fluids into these cavities; but it is difficult to suppose, that any considerable quantity of fluid had actually been effused into them, considering the great rapidity with which the symptoms were removed by general blood-letting and other powerful remedies. Sometimes previously to the appearance of the oedema, the pulse was observed to be slower than natural, and continued so for a time; but in all the cases in which symptoms indicating an affection of the head and chest were connected with the oedematous state, there was more or less general debile excitement, and the pulse was occasionally remarkably frequent; with the heart beating tumultuously; the symptoms seldom came on till several days after the oedema had appeared, and then, sometimes, very suddenly, and with great violence.* I am happy to say, that none of the patients in the hospital have died of this affection during the present epidemic, though several of them have been in considerable danger, and have required active treatment for the removal of their complaints. A great difference of opinion has existed among writers on scarlattina, in regard to the degree of importance to be attached to these dropsical affections; by some they are considered to be of very little consequence, while, by others, they are said to be attended with even more danger than the fever itself in its primary stages. This difference of opinion seems to me to have arisen from the different nature of different epidemics, and from the different modes of treatment which have been employed; particularly for the removal of the dropsical affections. The comparative degree of danger from the primary fever and its secondary effects in different epidemics, is well illustrated by the histories of the disease, as it appeared in Heriot's Hospital in 1804, 1832, and 1836. In the epidemics of 1804 and 1832-33, none of the patients died of its *primary effects*; while in that of the first, three; and of the second, one died of the *dropsical affections*. In the epidemic of 1836, three died of its *immediate effects*, and one of the *more remote*; but none with *dropsical symptoms*.

"At all events, the period during which oedematous swellings are present, should invariably be considered as one of danger, requiring the most watchful care of the medical attendant, as alarming symptoms frequently appear very suddenly; for the removal of which, the most active treatment is essentially required, and without loss of time; and, fortunately, in no stage of the disease are powerful remedies more decidedly useful. The cases in which symptoms were produced by the dropsical affections, or, perhaps, I should rather say, by the state of the constitution giving rise to them, seem to me to be of sufficient importance to be given in detail; in the meantime I may state, that one of the boys, in whom an oedematous swelling of the face was observed on the 20th day from the commencement of the fever, complained suddenly, on the 25th day, of very violent pain in the forehead; he was at the same moment totally deprived of his eye-sight, and the pupils of the eyes became very much dilated. His urine had been previously of a dark red colour, and coagulable; and his pulse had been for a few days rather below the natural standard, but he had not complained of any thing. After a few minutes the pain of the head went suddenly

* On this subject Dr. Wells says, "Symptoms of extreme danger sometimes appear as early as the third day after the face has begun to swell."—(*Loco citato*.)

off, and his vision was immediately restored. I was informed by one of my sons, who happened to be in the sickroom at the time of this singular affection, that, just before he recovered his sight, the iris of both eyes was, for a short time, in a state of rapid dilatation and contraction. Blood, which was immediately taken from the arm, was much cupped, and had a thick buffy coat; an additional quantity drawn some hours afterwards was of natural appearance. This patient made a perfect recovery without any other severe symptoms having taken place.

"In another of the boys, slight œdema of the face appeared on the 20th day of the fever, while he was still confined to bed. On the 25th, there was some œdema also of the hands, and the pulse was 100. Medicines were given for the removal of these symptoms, and on the morning of the 27th day, the swelling of the hand was reported to have disappeared; that of the face to be much lessened, and the pulse was 94. Soon after this report had been made, he had a severe and long-continued fit of cold shivering, which was removed by the warm bath; but immediately afterwards he became extremely hot, and his face was much flushed. He vomited, and complained of great pain in his head; the breathing was quick, short, and oppressed, and the heart beat tumultuously; the pulse was too rapid to be easily counted. These unpleasant symptoms were considerably relieved by blood being drawn freely from the arm, and by purgative medicines. In the evening, however, he was still hot and feverish, and the breathing was quick and oppressed. He was again bled with great relief, and next day he was in all respects better; he had slept well; looked comfortable; his breathing was much more natural, and his pulse was less frequent. After some time his feet swelled considerably; he was plagued with a troublesome cough, and became affected with severe rheumatic pains in his joints; but he recovered perfectly, though slowly.

"Four of the boys who had the fever early in the year, and Mrs. Stewart, the nurse, suffered from painful *rheumatic affections*, principally of the smaller joints, as sequela of the fever. None of the patients who were taken ill in November and December had any attack of this sequela. Mrs. Stewart, who had laboured under *scarlatina faucium*, was attacked during her convalescence with long-continued and very painful lumbago. The four boys had been affected with *scarlatina anginosa*, and two of them in a very severe form; in these two, there were rheumatic pains of the extremities generally, without any appearance of swelling or of external inflammation, in one of them they commenced on the third, and in the other on the fifth day of the fever, in both during the presence of the eruption. In the third boy, the ankles were affected, and although there was neither swelling nor inflammation of them, the pain was much increased on their being touched, or on motion; this affection came on very late in the disease, and after dropsical symptoms, which had been both troublesome and tedious, had been removed. In the fifth case, the rheumatic affection assumed rather a remarkable character; the boy complained, on the seventh day after being attacked with the fever in the form of *scarlatina anginosa*, during the existence of desquamation of the skin, of very severe pains in the legs and arms; on the eleventh day there was much painful swelling of the fingers; on the twenty-second, œdema of the face appeared, with pain in the head; on the twenty-ninth, there was a renewal of the pain in the head, and there were symptoms of affection of the chest, both of which were removed by blood-letting and other remedies; on the thirty-eighth there was much pain in the hands, and in both hams, so much, indeed, as to prevent him moving easily in bed, and much increased by the slightest touch of the parts affected, which were a little swelled, but not red. On the fortieth day he complained of toothache, and severe rheumatic pain over the right eyebrow. On the fifty-third day, there was a great deal of pain in the left ankle and knee, which was much swelled. After the decline of these symptoms by the use of leeches, sinapisms, and blisters, he complained of great pain in the upper and fore part of the left thigh, and the slightest touch was insufferable; he was for a long time confined to bed. For some time after the pain had so far subsided as to allow of his being taken up,

he was unable to make any use of the left leg in walking, partly from pain, but principally from a want of power and command of the limb. He could not rest any weight upon it, and when it was moved, it shook in a singular way; altogether, the mode in which the limb was used was very similar to that produced by paralysis. This affection remained for many months, although he was in the enjoyment of good general health, and it went off slowly and gradually, during a residence at the sea side, and the use of sea bathing. He is at present in good health, and has regained the perfect use of his limbs.

"Two of the boys who had been affected with *Scarlatina anginosa* in rather a mild form, suffered from an attack of *pneumonia* after their recovery. One of them, who had had some degree of œdema of the face without any unpleasant symptoms, was attacked with pneumonia eleven days after he had returned to his own sleeping ward, and been engaged in his usual avocations, and above seven weeks from the commencement of the fever. In the other, the inflammation of the lungs took place above a month from his having left the convalescent room, and above two months from the first symptoms of the fever.

"It is a very remarkable circumstance, and one not easily accounted for, that a boy was attacked 29th February with *small-pox* while in the convalescent room, to which, and to the sick-room, he had been confined for above a month, in consequence of having been affected with *scarlatina faucium*." * * *

"On the 22d March, another boy; on the 31st a third, and on the 18th April, two or more were attacked with *modified small-pox*; the last of these only had been affected with scarlet fever. In all of them the disease was of a very slight nature. In none of the patients, during the prevalence of the present epidemic, has there been any *crispelatus* affection, as had been the case during the former.

"The treatment of the fever in the hospital, during the present epidemic, has been conducted on the same general principles as during the former. There has been no disinclination on the part of Dr. Abercrombie, and myself, to employ general blood-letting, during the primary stages; wherever its use seems to be indicated by great febrile excitement; or by the occurrence of symptoms marking some local affection: but, on the other hand, we have not been disposed to have recourse to it, as a general remedy, from any belief of scarlet fever, partaking always, or most frequently, so much of an inflammatory nature, as to render its employment necessary, without some special indication. In consequence of the sudden death of two of the boys, in a state of collapse, soon after the fever appeared in the hospital, and of the disease having assumed much of the typhoid type, we considered it improper, and unnecessary to use the lancet, in the primary stages of the fever, in any but the first case which occurred. Local bleeding by leeches has been frequently employed for the removal of local symptoms. Emetics have been very little used, in consequence of the languor, lassitude, and general depression of the patient, in the commencement of the disease. Purgative and laxative medicines have been given freely, and frequently, in all its stages. The tartrate of antimony has been much less employed, with the view of producing nausea, than on the former occasion; because the febrile excitement has been less; it has been frequently given, however, as a diaphoretic, in combination with other medicines of the same class. Sponging with cold water has not been at all used; and with tepid, only in particular cases, and in them cautiously, in consequence of the heat of surface of the patients having been, in general, little above the natural standard, and of there having been a tendency to cold shivering, produced by exposure of the body to the air.

"The warm bath has been very frequently employed, in all stages of the disease, and with the best effects. It shortened the duration of the cold stage, and hastened the appearance of the eruption; in the febrile state, it allayed febrile excitement, and tended to produce sleep; and, during the period of desquamation, it relieved the unpleasant irritation produced by the affection of the skin, and assisted in restoring it to a healthy state. The temperature of the bath was regulated by the heat of surface of the patient. I am disposed to think, that sufficient importance has not been attached to the warm bath, as a remedial measure, in scarlatina; and that it has not been hitherto used so generally, nor

repeated so frequently, as it ought to be. I hope it will not be inferred, from this statement in favour of the warm and tepid bath, in certain states of the fever, that I am disposed to undervalue the practice of sponging the surface of the body with cold, or with tepid water; a practice from which the most beneficial results have been obtained, under judicious management; but this practice has not seemed a desirable one, as a general remedy, during the present epidemic, from the want of a high temperature of the surface of the body. In all instances, where the patients could be placed in the bath, without much disturbance, it was extremely pleasant to their feelings, and it was often asked to be repeated.

"Tincture of opium, in combination with antimonial wine, has sometimes been given, during the state of desquamation, after the febrile state has subsided, with a view of relieving the uneasy irritation produced by the state of the skin, which is frequently so distressing as to deprive the patient of sleep.

"In the management of the local affection of the throat, leeches have occasionally been applied, where there was much inflammatory swelling of the tonsils, and where any of the external glands were enlarged, and painful. Blisters have been occasionally used in swellings of the submaxillary or cervical glands, after the decline of the fever; but not often, during the febrile state, as they add to the discomfort of the patient, and do not seem to produce much effect in lessening the internal affection of the throat. Infusion of roses, acidulated with the sulphuric or nitric acid, and occasionally with an admixture of the tincture of capsicum, has been much used as a gargle. In many cases, where there was a great disinclination, on the part of the boys, to the use of gargles, they were persuaded, as a substitute, to sip frequently teaspoonfuls of common syrup, made pleasantly acid by addition of diluted nitrous acid. The strength of this mixture was varied according to circumstances: in some cases it produced considerable pain in being swallowed, by a person affected with sore throat, when it hardly tasted acid to one without such affection. In all cases where there was an accumulation of mucus in the mouth and throat, it was removed, as much as possible, with a sponge, and by frequent washing with tepid milk and water. Upon the whole, I am disposed to think, that too much importance has occasionally been attached in scarlet fever, to the state of the throat, and to the applications made to it. No doubt, in some cases, where there has been extensive sloughing of the throat, and neighbouring parts, death has been caused by the local affection; but more generally, I believe, the death is to be ascribed to the kind and degree of the general fever, by which the state of the throat is regulated, and consequently, the cure of the local affection must depend, in a great measure, on the treatment of the fever itself.

"Wine and other cordials were considered necessary in only a few cases; and in them they were given with great caution. When wine was used, it was given, at first, at least, diluted with water, and only in tablespoonfuls at a time, till its effects, which were very carefully watched, were ascertained; and by these its future use was regulated. Not more than six or seven of the patients in all, had any wine or other cordial given to them in any stages of the fever, or during their convalescence.

"A strictly antiphlogistic regimen was followed during the whole period of the febrile state, and for some time afterwards, and even when food of a more nourishing kind was allowed during the convalescence, it was given sparingly and cautiously, from a fear of febrile excitement being produced, not unlikely to terminate in dropsical affections. And for the same reason, the greatest care was taken to prevent the patients from being exposed to cold air for many weeks after the fever had subsided.

"In the treatment of the *dropsical affections* which followed the fever, the remedies have been varied according to the extent of the œdema, and the nature of the symptoms with which it was accompanied. In the cases where the œdema was partial, and confined to the face, without any fever, or symptoms of affection of internal parts, active purgative medicines were given, followed by diuretics, of which digitalis was the one principally trusted to, on account of its effect in lessening the force of the circulation; and the warm bath was

employed, with a strictly antiphlogistic regimen. Under this treatment, the œdema generally disappeared, without producing any unpleasant effect. In all cases, however, where, along with œdematous effusion, there was febrile excitement, and more particularly where symptoms appeared indicative of an affection of any of the internal parts, and in our patients those of the head and chest were alone affected, general blood-letting was immediately had recourse to, and repeated at short intervals till relief was obtained. The rapidity with which symptoms the most severe, and of the most alarming kind, disappeared under this remedy was very remarkable. In no case, during the present epidemic, have convulsion fits occurred either in the primary or secondary stages, as was the case in several instances during the last. It is satisfactory to know that recovery often takes place, under the use of blood-letting, of patients who have been affected with very severe convulsive fits. Along with blood-letting, active purgatives have been employed. The warm bath has been repeated frequently, and diuretic medicines, and occasionally tartrate of antimony, have been administered.

"Nothing seems to be better established, in the history of scarlatina, than the fact, that the dropsical affections which so frequently follow it, are, in all cases, more or less of the *acute* species, requiring, in many instances, the most powerful antiphlogistic remedies for their removal; and no greater improvement has been made in the treatment of the fever and its consequences, than that of the early and free use of the lancet in the dropsical affections. For this change we are in a great measure indebted to Drs. Abercrombie, Bright, Christison, and other medical men of the present times, who have thrown much light, in their writings, on the nature and cure of *acute dropsies* in general, and of the dropsical affections occurring as sequelæ of scarlatina in particular. But it ought to be mentioned, in justice to Dr. Wells of London, that he, after stating as a speculative opinion, that in this affection "inflammation may be supposed to exist sometimes in the head and the chest," adds, "and consequently bleeding, where danger is urgent, may be employed with advantage." In what follows, we have a very striking instance of the strength of the prejudice which at that time prevailed, against bleeding in these affections, from the dread of debility. "I must add, however," he continues, "that I have never prescribed bleeding myself in this disease, and that possibly I should not have courage to prescribe it, if a case were to occur to me, in which I might think it proper." He farther says, "Whatever opinion may be formed of what I have just said, it seems very evident that the dropsy, which occurs after scarlet fever, is in the beginning a symptom of some state of the body different from debility."* The dropsical state, as it has appeared in Heriot's Hospital during the present epidemic, seems to have been more directly under the control of remedies, than the severe symptoms of the fever in its primary stages.

"The *rheumatic affections* have been treated by the warm bath and warm fomentations, and by the use of opium, combined with preparations of antimony, or with ipecacuanha. Where there were swellings of the joints, leeches were applied, and sinapisms, and blisters; and friction, with stimulating embrocations, was afterwards had recourse to. In one boy, as formerly mentioned, after the swelling and pain had been removed by these means, the power of the limb was restored by sea-bathing, and a residence at the sea side of some months duration.

"On comparing the state of the fever in the hospital during the three epidemics mentioned in this and my former communication, it appears that in 1804, of 140 inmates of the institution, fifty of the boys were attacked with the disease; in all of them it was very mild in its *primary stages*, and none died of its *primary* and *direct effects*. An emetic was given occasionally, but not generally, on the approach of the fever, and towards its decline a moderate quantity of

* These observations are contained in a very interesting paper on the subject of "the Dropsy which succeeds Scarlet Fever," by Dr. Wells, in the third volume of the Transactions of the Society for the Improvement of Medical and Surgical Knowledge, p. 167.

wine was allowed. This seemed to be necessary in a few cases; but to avoid the appearance of partiality, the practice of giving it was general.* The treatment consisted principally, however, in the use of purgative medicines, which were given fully and freely in all stages of the complaint. The warm bath was repeatedly used; and saline and diaphoretic mixtures were employed in a few cases, with the occasional use of "gargles, composed of port wine, diluted with water, or of vinegar and water, sweetened with honey or sugar."

Dr. Hamilton does not state the exact number of patients who became affected with *dropsical effusions*; but three boys died, and two others were in great danger from their effects. In the fatal cases the patients died, he says, "within less than thirty-six hours from the recurrence of complaint, labouring under symptoms denoting ascites, hydrothorax, and hydrocephalus."† The affection was treated by the use of "suitable cordials, and purgative medicines of appropriate quality."‡ "Strong purgatives were given in large and repeated doses, sometimes twice and thrice in the same day, before the necessary evacuation was procured." Stimulating glysters were also occasionally employed "to support and promote the efficacy of the purgatives, and to insure a determination downwards." Blood-letting does not appear to have formed any part of the treatment; but this is not to be wondered at, as at that time dropsical affections were generally, or I should rather say universally, believed, by the medical men of this country, to be in all cases the effects of debility. I have little doubt that more of the fever patients would have been attacked with dropsy, and a greater proportion of those who were affected with it, would have died, if it had not been for the full and free way in which active purgative medicines were given by Dr. Hamilton, in all stages of the disease, in opposition to the then prevailing prejudice against their use, founded on the erroneous fear of their producing injurious debility, and increasing the tendency to putridity. In this mode of treatment of scarlatina, there was a near approximation to that of the present day, in which even the more powerful antiphlogistic remedies, general and local blood-letting, are had recourse to, under particular circumstances, with the best possible effect in all stages of the disease. The prejudice against the use of purgatives in scarlatina prevailed to a great degree for some years after 1804. Dr. Willan, after giving an opinion against the use of blood-letting in the primary stages of the disease, says, "Purgatives have nearly the same debilitating effect as blood-letting. They are indeed seldom necessary; for though a few patients may, on the first day, be affected with bilious vomiting and diarrhoea, the state of the bowels is more uniform than in other febrile complaints."§ It is rather remarkable, that no mention is made by Dr. Hamilton of the employment of diuretics. This may have arisen, perhaps, from the great confidence placed by the Doctor in purgative medicines, and in the effects of calomel, which he gave very freely on this occasion, even to the extent of producing a considerable degree of ptyalism.||

"In 1832-33, of 206 inmates of the hospital, forty-four of the boys, and one female adult took the fever. In most of these cases it was of a mild nature in the *primary stages*, and none died of its *primary and direct effects*. Emetics were occasionally given in the commencement of the fever; purgative medicines in all its stages; the tartrate of antimony was often employed in nauseating doses to lessen febrile excitement. Local and general blood-letting were had recourse to in some few cases; sponging with cold, but more frequently with tepid water, was much used, and also the warm bath. Stimulating gargles of various kinds were employed. Wine was given in a very few cases.

"On the whole, the facts observed lead to the inference that the febrile excitement seems to have been greater during this epidemic than the former. Of

* Observations on the Utility and Administration of Purgative Medicines, by James Hamilton, M. D. p. 196.

† Ibid. p. 194.

‡ Ibid. p. 193.

§ On Cutaneous Diseases, by Robert Willan, M. D. p. 393.

|| Hamilton, p. 195.

the forty-five persons who had the fever, nine boys became affected with *dropsical effusions*; of these one died of *hydrocephalus*, and several were in considerable danger, some of them having laboured under convulsions and symptoms indicative of diseased action within the head, and others under symptoms of an affection of the viscera of the chest. The treatment of the dropsical affections consisted in the employment of general and local blood-letting, of strong purgative medicines, and of diuretics, particularly digitalis, with the frequent use of the warm bath, and occasionally of tartrate of antimony in nauseating doses.

"In 1836, of 307 inmates of the house, forty-three of the boys, and one male and one female adult took the fever. Of these cases, two boys died within forty-eight hours of the attack, and one in seven days, all of them from its *direct and primary effects*, and a fourth in thirty-three days from its *secondary consequences*, viz., affections of the *larynx* and of the *bronchial and mesenteric glands*. The fever, which had much more of a typhoid type than during the other two epidemics, was treated principally by purgative medicines and diaphoretics; in some cases by wine and cordials, and by the frequent use of the warm bath. Eight of the boys became affected with *dropsical swellings*, and symptoms indicating internal affections of the head and chest, from the effects of which several were alarmingly ill, but none died. This *sequela* was treated by free blood-letting, general and local; by powerful purgatives, and by strong diuretics, with the warm bath. Five of the patients, four boys and a female adult, suffered from *rheumatic affections*."—*Edinburgh Med. and Surg. Journ.* January, 1839.

25. *Extent of Prevalence and Mortality of the Epidemic Scarlet Fever in some of the Public Institutions of Edinburgh.* By Wm. Wood, F. R. S. E.

Year.	Hospital.	Inmates.	Cases of Fever.	Deaths.	Rate of Mortality.
1804	Heriot's,	140 { 120 Boys, 20 Adults, male and female.	50 Boys.	3*	1 to 16.66
1832-33	Heriot's,	206 { 179 Boys, 10 Male adults, 17 Female do.	45 { 44 Boys, 1 Fem. adult.	1 Boy.*	1 to 45
1835-36	Heriot's,	207 { 180 Boys, 10 Male adults, 17 Female do.	45 { 43 Boys, 1 Male adult, 1 Female do.	4 Boys.†	1 to 11.25
1835-36	Merch. Maid.	104 { 93 Girls, 11 Fem. adults.	21 Girls.		
1835-36	Trades' Maid.	53 { 47 Girls, 6 Fem. adults.	7 Girls.		
1835-36	J. Watson's,	132 { 64 Boys, 50 Girls, 18 Adults.	22 { 12 Boys, 10 Girls.	1 Boy.*	1 to 22
1835-36	G. Watson's,	95 { 76 Boys, 5 Male adults, 10 Female do. 4 Children.	16 { 15 Boys, 1 Child.	1 Boy.†	1 to 16
1835-36	Orphan,	91 { 40 Boys, 40 Girls, 2 Male adults, 9 Female do.	23 { 3 Boys, 19 Girls, 1 Fem. adult.	None.	
	Total.	1028	229	10	1 to 22.9

"The number of the inmates of the Trades' Hospital, who suffered from the

* From dropsical affections.

† Three from primary fever, one from diseased mesenteric and bronchial glands.

‡ From primary fever.

fever, was, in all probability, materially affected by the breaking up of the establishment soon after its appearance there."—*Ibid.*

26. *On the Treatment of Scarlatina Anginosa.* By Dr. HAMILTON of Falkirk.—“I would remark, in the outset, that, in this disease, averages seem to me an exceedingly fallacious mode of estimating the rate of mortality attending different kinds of treatment, when these are applied to different epidemics, or even to those prevailing in adjacent localities. There can be little doubt, I think, that the type, in the circumstances above stated, varies so much as to render doubtful or to invalidate any conclusions that may be drawn from them. For example, the volatile alkali in the hands of Dr. Peart, and the capsicum gargle in those of Dr. Stephens, appear to have been considered as almost specific. Other observers, in other epidemics, however, have come to widely different conclusions. To the same effect, in the epidemic which prevailed in Edinburgh during the latter part of 1833, and the commencement of 1834, it was a common observation, that the cases occurring in certain localities, such as the Westport, Grassmarket, Cowgate, Pleasance, &c. were much more virulent in their type than those occurring in the New Town, or even than those which occurred in Heriot's Hospital, lying quite in the vicinity of the situations I have mentioned. It seems to me, therefore, that accounts of epidemics, or of modes of treatment, which do not furnish us with an exact detail of at least the leading symptoms of the cases, do not place before us the requisite data for drawing accurate conclusions.

“But if this be true, in regard to scarlatina as a whole. I believe it to be especially so when speaking of the state of the tonsillar inflammation; and I hold this opinion for two reasons; 1st, because the mere vague statement of “The throat being much inflamed,” or similar general expressions, give us no available information, as this occurs in a large proportion of cases that would recover with even the simplest treatment; and, 2dly, because, out of a good many hundred cases of primary fever which I have treated, the fate of the patient, in a large majority, has appeared to me to depend upon the effect which the remedies employed produced on the affection of the tonsils. Indeed, I am quite inclined to think, except in malignant cases, that where this is moderate, or can fairly be kept under, the primary fever of the disease in question is in general a very manageable one. Independently of those cases which prove fatal, merely from the extensive sloughing of the tonsils and adjoining parts, every one who has seen violent epidemics, must have remarked how much the formidable secondary affections of the glands, cellular tissue, and even external skin at the angles of the jaws, as well as the tendency of the inflammation to spread backwards to the larynx and trachea, or upwards to the internal ear and brain, are influenced by the intensity of the inflammation with which the tonsils are affected. It becomes, therefore, I conceive, a matter of the utmost moment to ascertain accurately what are the most powerful means we possess for subduing this, in general the most prominent symptom of the anginose form of the disease.

“Before adverting to this point, however, it may be well to say a few words on the distinguishing characters of the tonsillar affection.

“The distinctive characters assumed by the inflammation of the tonsils in *scarlatina anginosa*, when compared, on the one hand, with severe cases of *cynanche tonsillaris*, and on the other with venereal or other common ulcers of the same parts, are, it appears to me, sufficiently well marked. In the cases of *cynanche* alluded to, the pain is from the commencement severe, and often becomes excruciating, the affection frequently terminating in the formation of abscess. In ulceration, again, the pain is either a raw feeling, or is felt principally when pungent substances are swallowed. These characters are materially modified in *scarlatina*. The pain, as long as the swelling does not extend to the surrounding parts, is, for the most part, comparatively moderate, even when the tonsils are enormously swollen. I have repeatedly asked patients thus affected, whether they experienced much pain in swallowing, and I have most generally been

answered in the negative. I have never yet heard the pain complained of as excruciating, and I have never once seen the inflammation proceed to the formation of internal abscess. When examined, also, the appearance of the parts is very different. In cynanche, it is not so much the tonsils themselves which are swollen as the anterior and adjacent parts, while, in the ulceration of the tonsils I have alluded to, little swelling occurs, and we see generally more or less clean excavations surrounded by inflammation. On the other hand, I would say, that the chief characteristic of *scarlatina anginosa*, is the inflammation, and particularly the swelling of the tonsils themselves. Of course the other parts of the throat are also inflamed, but this exists in other cases, and is most usually of secondary importance.

"Of the state of the tonsils in *scarlatina anginosa*, I think we may note three degrees. Of the first kind, are those cases in which the swelling of the tonsils is moderate, and their surfaces clean, the inflammation being apparently at the same time considerable. These are not usually dangerous cases. In the second degree, the swelling of the tonsils has increased a good deal, and we notice a whitish (or sometimes yellowish) secretion, principally at the openings of the ducts, but occasionally covering nearly the whole surface of the glands. This appears to be an albuminous substance. I have seen some of it which had been spit up; it was something like the white of an egg inspissated, but was perhaps tougher. The fever generally is more intense in examples of this description, and the cases altogether are more dangerous than those of the first kind. Examples of the third degree are presented to us, when the tonsillar swelling increases still farther, and ultimately ends in sloughing of a large portion of the glands. In severe cases, the tonsils often meet, and completely hide the *uvula* behind them. It is in cases of this last kind, I have no doubt, that by far the greatest mortality occurs.

"It will be noticed, that in none of these divisions have I mentioned ulcerations of the parts, which are so frequently spoken of by a great majority of modern authors; and I have not done so, because I doubt whether these form an essential part of, or are even common in, the throat affection of *scarlatina anginosa*. No doubt, when the tonsils slough, a solution of continuity occurs, but this happens only in the third degree, and most frequently at a more or less advanced period of the disease. The white albuminous matter seen in the second division, certainly does not generally cover ulcers, for I have often observed the tonsils covered with it one day, and quite free from it and clean the next; while, in cases that never pass beyond the first degree, or during the time that the other two divisions are passing through the first, the occurrence of ulcers on the tonsils is, I would say, from very numerous observations, exceedingly rare.* A person who examines the state of the tonsils superficially, especially when this inflammation is declining, is very apt to be deceived on this point; for we can then often observe a cup-like cavity, formed by the gland. An attentive examination of this, however, will show that it does not arise from ulceration, but merely from the centre of the swollen gland having sunk down more rapidly than the circumference. Nor is attention to this point of slight practical importance; for I am convinced, that by leading those who have not seen much of the disease, to imagine that the healing of these ulcers forms an important part of the local treatment, practitioners are apt to be betrayed into an inert and essentially erroneous practice. From all the observations I have made, I am inclined to think, that, in this disease, the inflammation attacks chiefly the tonsils themselves, whereas, in cynanche, it is the subjacent cellular tissue that is the principal seat of the affection.

"Having made these remarks upon the characters of this affection, I shall now make a few observations on its treatment. Most of the recent authors, who have written upon this subject, agree as to the advantages to be derived from the

* I except here minute abrasions of the surface, which I have seen sometimes on the uvula, soft palate, or lips, and which appeared to me to be produced when the nitrate of silver I had been using accidentally touched them.

application of the nitrate of silver. From my own experience, I would certainly say that it is a local remedy of more importance than all the others we possess taken together. Of course, from what I have already said, it will be understood that I do not, as seems to be the case with some practitioners, limit its application to the healing of ulcers which may appear,* or to the solutions of continuity that are the consequences of sloughing. The former must certainly require very few applications of the medicine, and if we wait till the latter has taken place, in order to apply it, I am afraid we shall often have to lament the inefficacy of this, as well as every other remedy. The important principle in using it, appears to me to be, to apply it to the tonsils, for the purpose of subduing the inflammation existing there, that is, with exactly the same views as we apply the same remedy in catarrhal or gonorrhœal ophthalmia. When this is properly done, either with a strong solution, or with the solid caustic, (the latter of which I generally prefer, from its greater portability and convenience,) we commonly find, if the case is recent, and not very severe, that its effects in restraining the inflammation and swelling are considerable.

"To do this remedy justice, my own observations would further lead me to say that it requires to be applied early in the disease. At first, I had some hesitation in using it before I had previously premised local bleeding, &c., for the purpose of subduing the intensity of the inflammation, I believe, however, that this caution was unnecessary, or even hurtful, by causing the loss of valuable time in the use of a less powerful remedy. The loss of twenty-four hours in the application of the nitrate, makes the most material difference in its power of controlling the inflammation. If it is not applied before the second day of the eruption, I have found that, in severe cases, great difficulty is frequently experienced in preventing sloughing from taking place. When applied on the first day of the eruption, its beneficial effects are much more evident; but I have found its influence most decided when it has been applied *before the eruption has made its appearance*. From my anxiety to get the caustic applied at as early a period as possible, I have been in the habit, for some time past, of regularly examining the state of the throat in all the other children of a family where one had already become affected; and I have been not a little surprised to find, that when the fever is about to be severe, the tonsils are invariably affected at least twenty-four hours before the eruption appears, and sometimes two, three, or more days previously. The day before the eruption appears, the tonsils, which may have been previously merely somewhat tumid or swollen, generally become considerably more so, at the same time that their colour changes from a pale to a vivid red. By watching these changes, I have commonly been able to tell within a few hours when the eruption would appear, even when there have been no other premonitory symptoms. It is most remarkable, indeed, that the premonitory symptoms in this disease bear no certain relation to the fever which is to follow.

"I recently took notes of a case in which the premonitory symptoms were excessively severe, expecting the fever to be so also, and yet this passed off very mildly, and the tonsils were only slightly affected. On the other hand, again, in the same family, I requested that a little girl might be sent for from school, in order that I might examine the state of the tonsils, scarlatina having affected another of the children for several days before this. On examining this girl's tonsils, I found them greatly swollen and inflamed—in such a state, indeed, that I had no hesitation in saying the eruption would appear within twenty-four hours, which proved to be the case; and instead of being mild, this turned out a very severe attack. Now, when I sent for this girl from school, she appeared well in every respect. Her pulse was natural; she had no pain of the head, or of the throat when she swallowed; there was no sickness or nausea; nothing,

* "Inspect the throat (in scarlatina) both carefully and frequently, and treat the ulceration there with dilute solution of nitrate of silver, or the chlorides."—Dr. Badham's concluding lecture in *Med. Gaz.* vol. xiv. p. 575.

in fine, but the state of the tonsils could have led me to the belief that a dangerous fever was so nearly impending.

"My practice, since I discovered the above to be the case, has been, every morning to examine the tonsils of those who were living in a family where scarlatina had appeared, and who had not already been affected by the disease. The instant I have discovered the tonsils beginning to be affected, as I have described, I have touched them with the lunar caustic, and I have continued to do this daily, until the fever has declined. The effects produced by it have been very decided. When a severe case has been thus treated, the progress of the tonsillar affection may in general be said to be as follows: On the day before the eruption shows itself, the redness and swelling become more decided than they have previously been; on the first and second days of the eruption, these are still more increased; on the third and fourth days, the inflammation and swelling continue nearly stationary, but the openings of the tonsillar ducts show more or less of the white albuminous matter which has been alluded to. After this, the swelling and inflammation begin rapidly to decline, and, about the eighth day from the appearance of the eruption, the glands have in general attained very moderate dimensions.

"If my observations are correct, it will thus be seen, that the early and continued application of the nitrate does not prevent this local affection from passing through what I have described as its two first degrees, but that it prevents it entirely from passing into the third, and by far the most dangerous stage, that of sloughing. The second degree, also, is, when thus treated, for the most part very moderate, the power of swallowing being usually little if at all affected.

"Of course this practice is applicable, to its full extent, only where the disease has already appeared in a family. But when I compare the ease with which I have, by this means, been able to keep down the swelling of the tonsils, with the intractable nature of similar cases, which I have not seen before the second day of the eruption, it has forcibly impressed upon my mind the importance of applying this remedy, in every instance, at the earliest possible period."

As to the general treatment, Dr. Hamilton says that after the bowels have been attended to he has tried or seen tried no general remedies which appeared to him to have a decided effect in controlling bad cases of *S. anginosa*. "I have little doubt," he adds, "that nine out of ten of the cases that prove fatal, do so, directly or indirectly, from the state of the tonsils, and no general remedies I have used have seemed to me materially to influence this affection when severe. In the epidemic which I had an opportunity of treating in Edinburgh, in 1833-34, I tried general bleeding in some severe cases, but I must confess not with such success as to induce me to continue the practice. I believe, that when the pulse at the commencement is full and very quick, a moderate general bleeding may be used in this, as in continued fever, at least without disadvantage; but these, it is to be remarked, are not in general the worst description of cases, the pulse in the latter being often feeble or soft, and very quick even from the commencement. Where this is the case, I would say, from my own experience, that general bleeding requires to be used with considerable caution; and I confess I am not satisfied that even the profuse local bleeding which occurred in case second, was not rather hurtful than beneficial.

It will be observed, that I have used in all the cases related calomel and opium. I have done this for two reasons: 1st, because I have thought their joint action in determining to the skin might be beneficial; and 2dly, because it has always seemed to me important to guard against the occurrence of laryngitis, which, perhaps more than any other complication, is apt to occur in a bad state of the tonsils.—*Ibid*.

27. *On the Scarlet Fever Epidemic in Edinburgh in 1835-36.* By CHARLES SIDEY, Esq.—Mr. Sidey's experience is derived from private practice, in which the disease presented itself in very different degrees of severity and complication. The cutaneous efflorescence was in some cases very slight, and only par-

tially diffused, whilst in others it was more generally or universally spread over the body. In a few cases it exhibited a kind of deep purple or livid-coloured patches. In several instances where the throat was severely affected, the eruption did not disappear for a much longer period than usual. The affection of the throat exhibited every possible gradation from the slight erythematous blush to a very formidable and destructive gangrenous inflammation. In the more severe cases, the internal surface of the throat presented at a very early period of the disease, an appearance like that which we could suppose to result from its being rubbed over with caustic potash. When the slough separated, the ulcers in the situation of the tonsils were, in several instances, so large and deep as to appear capable of admitting the extremity of the under finger.

More or less inflammation or congestion of the throat, Mr. S. considers essential to genuine scarlet fever.

The affection of the throat and skin showed little or no kind of direct relation in degree, one with the other.

The disease was most prevalent among the younger part of the population, but when it attacked adults, it was more formidable, more frequently and severely affected the fauces, and more rapidly run on to a fatal termination.

In several instances Mr. S. saw second attacks of the disease.

The *sequelæ* of the disease seldom assumed a very severe or dangerous character in the patients attended by Mr. S. which he ascribes to the rigorous antiphlogistic measures which he uniformly inculcated during the first weeks of convalescence.

"In four or five cases the secondary inflammation of the submaxillary glands went on to abscess, and in most of these instances, there occurred also a purulent discharge from the ear. In no case has the inflammatory disease of the ear produced such disorganization as to cause deafness.

"Seven only of the patients whom I have attended during the present epidemic have been attacked during convalescence with dropsy, or not one in twenty. In four of these, this secondary affection appeared under a very mild and manageable form; in a fifth it was very severe, though the patient ultimately recovered; in the two others it proved fatal. In above twenty cases, I have observed a form of secondary affection, with which I do not recollect to have met with any description in authors, viz. a kind of rheumatic swelling and inflammation of one or more of the joints of the extremities, as of the elbow and knee, the wrist, the ankle, and the hip. This affection of the joints, has appeared to me to have followed principally after the cases in which the skin was much affected. It generally supervened during the first days of convalescence, and was frequently attended with very considerable pain and suffering. I have been informed of one aggravated case, in which this secondary inflammation was seated in the elbow and wrist, and went on to the complete destruction of these joints."

The mortality in Mr. S.'s practice was seven in about 150 or 160 cases.

The treatment employed by Mr. S. he states to have been the following:—

"After, in the first instance, strongly inculcating attention to cleanliness, to keeping the patient cool, and his chamber well ventilated, I have insisted on the antiphlogistic regimen being strictly followed out with regard to diet, and have in addition forbidden the use of all kinds of fruits. I have made it also an invariable rule to keep up a continued action on the bowels, during the whole course of the disease, with gentle purgatives. The medicines that I have principally employed for this purpose have been combinations of calomel with rhubarb, scammony and James's powder, and infusion of senna with the sulphate of magnesia. Whenever the tongue puts on, in a very marked degree, the well-known and characteristic inflammatory strawberry appearance, I have deemed it necessary to act upon the bowels by mild means, as by castor oil, and warm emollient enemata. This point of practice I consider as of very great importance. The necessity of free purging has always appeared to me to be fully evinced by the very deranged state of the biliary and intestinal secretions, as manifested by the green, black, and tar-coloured evacuations which were produced.

"In the further treatment of the disease I have generally acted on the skin with the spirit of Mindererus, or tartrate of antimony, in a mixture containing a quantity of nitrous ether.

"I have also constantly employed either tepid sponging, or the warm bath itself, more frequently the latter. I have generally ordered the bath to be repeated twice or thrice during the day. It has appeared to afford great relief to the feelings of the patients, and was in many cases oftener repeated at their own urgent request. In using it, the body was merely dipped in it for a minute or two each time, and then quickly and thoroughly dried. A longer immersion seemed to produce fainting, or a great tendency to it, followed by shivering. If there appeared to be the least tendency to much affection of the throat when I was first called, or at any period during the continuance of the disease, I always instantly opposed it by free bleeding from the external fauces, by means of leeches, repeated or not, according to circumstances. After the leeches dropped off, I have generally ordered a warm poultice to be applied to the parts, and have on many occasions, where the throat was much affected, continued a succession of them during the whole course of the disease, alternated with the occasional use of the mustard poultice.

"As direct internal local applications to the inflamed ulcerated and sphaculating fauces, I have trusted principally to gargles composed of a solution of sulphate of zinc with some powder of carbon; and in other cases I have employed one of lime-water with a quantity of powdered cinchona diffused through it.

"A decoction of bran and one of these gargles was employed repeatedly during the course of the day, and in children so young as to be unable to use them, I have myself applied them, or ordered them to be very frequently applied, during the twenty-four hours, by injecting them against the diseased surface of the internal fauces, by means of the common syringe. I have found this to be a certain and, at the same time, an easy method of applying washes and solutions to the internal fauces in children, and one which is attended with comparatively but slight inconvenience to the little patients.

"I never found it necessary to employ wine or stimuli of any description in any of the cases that I attended.

"During convalescence, I have been careful to preserve the bowels in a favourable condition with the colocynth or rhubarb pill, and at the same time inculcated an adherence to the antiphlogistic regimen for some time, together with the most careful possible avoidance of cold. To insure this last important indication, I have generally insisted upon the necessity of my patients being provided with an under-dress of flannel before they left their beds. It is to the rigour with which these simple measures were enforced that I am inclined (as before stated) to attribute the small ratio of severe secondary affections that I have witnessed.

"Four out of the seven cases of secondary anasarca yielded readily to a repetition of active purgatives, with small doses of the nitrate of potass, and powder of digitalis, and rubbing the surface of the body with hot spirits. One of the cases was attended with convulsion, great difficulty of breathing, and stupor. The urine was highly albuminous, and contained likewise blood to a certain extent. He was treated with the usual diuretics, sinapisms over the loins, friction with hot spirits, and a few leeches applied to the lumbar region, the state of his constitution not indicating the use of the lancet. This case was seen by Dr. Christison, at whose suggestion diaphoretics were tried but without any marked advantage over the diuretics. The blood in the urine disappeared under the free use of the acetate of lead, and the patient is now in good health. The sixth case resisted this and every other treatment that was adopted. The patient, a boy of four years of age, presented no symptoms of internal inflammation, requiring the employment of general or local bleeding, but sunk under the dropsy in a chronic form." The seventh case was in a person who had formerly passed through the disease. During the second and fatal attack, the eruption was of a deep purple, and the fauces and nostrils were extensively ulcerated.—*Ibid.*

SURGERY.

28. *Fracture of the Acetabulum.*—The following case will be read with interest not only on account of the rarity of the injury, but also from the interest excited by the individual to whom the accident happened, and who was generally known as the "Wandering Piper." The case is recorded by DR. CHARLES LENDRICK of Dublin, in the *London Medical Gazette*, for March, 1839.

"Nearly a month since, at the desire of the Rev. Hugh Prior, I admitted this person as a patient into Mercer's Hospital. I was informed that he was of a station in life much superior to that of his occupation; but that, for reasons which could not be explained, he was not permitted to avail himself of his pecuniary resources, but was required to subsist either on the profits of his assumed trade, or on charity. His disease was phthisis pulmonalis, combined with acute inflammation of the hip-joint. He had received a severe injury by the upsetting of a mail-coach some years since, and had been then under treatment some months for (as it was supposed) fracture of the neck of the femur. Since that time he had been lame, but still able to take a great deal of exercise on foot, both here and in America. The acute attack commenced about two months ago. Just before his admission into the hospital, he had been under the care of Sir Philip Crampton, who often expressed his surprise at the slight amount of the shortening of the limb, which did not exceed half an inch. This circumstance was explained by the dissection.

"As there was nothing unusual in the progress of the case up to the time of his death, on the 17th February, nor in the post-mortem appearances in the thorax, I shall only allude to those of the hip-joint, the dissection of which was performed on the 19th instant, in presence of my colleagues, Messrs. Read, Auchinleck, Palmer, and Tagert.

"There had not been any fracture of the femur, although the state of that bone, forming the disease usually termed *morbis coxae senilis*, presented at first the appearance of one. The os pubis had, however, been fractured, and the edges of this fracture, in overlapping, had caused, by their union, the rim of the pelvis to be shortened nearly an inch between the symphysis pubis and the inferior spinous process of the ilium. What was very remarkable a portion of intestine had adhered to the bone, probably being pinched between the ends of the fracture, and had remained permanently attached within a bony cavity, presenting the appearance of a hernia. The intestinal tube was, however, pervious; but the large intestines were of much smaller calibre than those usually termed "the small." The patient had not laboured under any abdominal symptoms during life.

"The ischium appeared also to have been fractured and to have become united. The femur had obviously protruded through the rent in the acetabulum, and had entered the pelvis. A bony case had been formed for its head; but a portion, about the size of a shilling, was uncovered, except by ligament. The round ligament of the joint was perfect and the other ligaments were thickened. Ulceration of the cartilage of the head of the femur had obviously commenced; and to this, and probably to the irritation of the obturator nerve by a spicula of bone which had formed about it, the excruciating torment which the patient lately suffered might be attributed.

29. *On the Pathology of Burns and Scalds.* By SAMUEL COOPER, Esq.—It is to Baron Dupuytren that we are indebted for the first correct and important explanation of the pathology of burns; a subject which, as throwing light on the symptoms, and tending to improve the practice adopted in some stages of these injuries, I deem highly deserving of farther investigation. In this hospital, you are aware, gentlemen, that no opportunity has been omitted, of prosecuting the inquiry by post-mortem examinations. The particulars of some of these I now proceed to remind you of.

Scald of the Chest followed by Ulceration of the Duodenum.—Hannah Latter, No. XLVIII.—August, 1839. 41

etat. 8, was admitted December 18, 1838. About five weeks prior to this date, she met with the accident, for which she was attended by a private practitioner, who covered the injured parts with flour. The case went on promisingly for three weeks, at the end of which she began to void a great deal of blood from the rectum. At the time of her admission she was in a most reduced and emaciated condition, and died on the 20th.

Post mortem appearances: Abdomen.—An ulcer, of about the size of a shilling, in the duodenum, just beyond the pylorus; the deficiency in the parietes of the bowel being supplied by the subjacent portion of the pancreas. Blood was found in various places within the small intestines.

Chest.—Organs healthy.

Head.—Not examined.

Extensive and deep Burns of the Limbs.—*Congestion of the Lungs and Brain, and Effusion of Bloody Serum.*—Amongst the cases of burns brought to the hospital this winter, I may next notice that of Hannah Austin, etat. 5, who, in consequence of her clothes catching fire, was burnt on the left hand, arms, thighs, and legs. On her admission there was great depression of the system, coldness of the skin, and languor of the circulation. The feet were therefore fomented, and some warm drink given. Flour was applied in the usual way.

On the day but one following her admission, the child became comatose, and sunk. Before death, Mr. Taylor detected the existence of bronchitis.

Sectio cadaveris.—An accumulation of bloody serum in the cavity of the right pleura; the lungs highly congested, and loaded with blood; the mucous membrane of bowels pale; vessels of the brain exceedingly turgid, and a large quantity of bloody serum at its base.

Burns on the Abdomen, Chest, Arms, and Occiput, followed by Ulceration of the Duodenum, and vomiting of Blood, &c.—Mary Wright, etat. 3, was admitted into University College Hospital, with several burns of the above-mentioned parts. As she was somewhat collapsed, warm stimulants were given, and the burns dressed with flour. The next day vomiting came on, and for four days the child voided from the stomach, considerable quantities of a dark brown fluid, and complained of severe pain in the epigastrium. On the following day, she vomited up blood, and, on the next, died convulsed.

Sectio cadaveris.—Traces of peritoneal inflammation on some of the intestines. On raising the stomach, a large clot of blood was observed between it and the mesocolon, circumscribed by adhesion of the adjacent peritoneal surfaces. On breaking the adhesions, and separating the coagulum from the duodenum, the contents of this bowel became effused through an ulcerated aperture, of about the size of a halfpenny, which was situated in the posterior part of the intestine, close to the pyloric orifice of the stomach. A quantity of coagulated blood was found in the latter viscus, and also in the duodenum and ileum; and, besides the ulcerated opening, there were three additional ulcers in the duodenum.

Burn of the Neck, Chest, and Arms, followed by Congestion of the Veins in the Abdomen, Ulceration of the Stomach, Pneumonia, &c.—Matilda Fitzwaylet, etat. 9 years, was admitted January 17, 1839, with an ulcerated surface extending over the front part of the neck, chest, and arms, and occasioned by a burn, which happened three weeks previously to her admission. Symptoms of bronchitis had prevailed more or less ever since the accident. On the fifth and sixth days after her entrance into the hospital, the difficulty of respiration became very great, and she died on the seventh, four weeks after the occurrence of the burn.

Sectio cadaveris.—In the abdomen the veins were all found very much congested. There was an ulcer in the stomach, nearly cicatrized.

In the left side of the chest, old adhesions of the pleura observed. The lungs were highly inflamed, congested, and almost hepatized. The bronchial mucous membrane was much inflamed, and contained a purulent secretion.

A small quantity of fluid was found under the arachnoid membrane.

Remarks.—That many persons who meet with burns die comatose, or else with great difficulty of respiration—asthmatic symptoms, as they were called—

were facts well known to surgeons many years ago. The cause of coma was not, however, attempted to be explained, as it might correctly have been, by reference to the congestion of the vessels of the brain, and the effusion upon or within that organ, as subsequently demonstrated in post-mortem examinations; while the old practitioners, instead of looking at the congested and even inflamed lungs, by which they would have been able to account rightly for the oppression of the breathing, ascribed the latter frequent consequence of a burn to sympathy between the lungs and the injured skin. This was the doctrine which I used to hear inculcated by Abernethy.

The post-mortem examinations made by Dupuytren, of individuals who died of burns, threw quite a new light upon the subject. They proved that, when the sufferer perishes in the flames, or shortly after being removed from them, marks of excessive congestion are usually observable in the intestinal canal, although there has not been sufficient time for inflammation to commence. Not only does the mucous membrane exhibit bright red patches—not only is it gorged with blood, but the bowels contain a quantity of this fluid, which has been extravasated. He describes the brain as being largely injected with blood, and the fluid in the serous cavities of the body as presenting a reddish colour. He represents the mucous secretion of the bronchial tubes as also bloody, and their investing membrane as exhibiting a bright red colour, and streaked with highly injected capillary vessels. It seemed to him as if the blood, suddenly repelled from the skin, made an effort to escape through the pores of every internal surface.

Our second case exemplifies the truth of most of these observations, with the exception that *the mucous membrane of the bowels was pale*, though the lungs and brain were much congested, and a bloody serous fluid was copiously effused within the cranium and the chest.

Dupuytren found that, if the patient died between the third and eighth days after the receipt of the burn, traces of inflammation of the bowels, lungs, and brain, were commonly noticed; but if the patient sank at a later period, or in the suppurative stage, the mucous membrane of the intestines was generally studded with patches of redness and ulceration, and that sometimes the mesenteric glands were enlarged.

As we have not met with such enlargement of the mesenteric glands in our post-mortem examinations of burnt patients, a doubt is left in my mind whether such enlargement, as remarked by Dupuytren, depended upon the burn, or upon the effects of scrofulous disease existing previously to the accident.

The entire perforation of the duodenum by ulceration, exemplified in our first case; the adhesion of the margins of the ulcerated opening to the pancreas; the discharge of great quantities of blood from the rectum before the patient sunk; and the blood found after death within the intestinal canal, and, no doubt, the source of which was the considerable ulcer in the duodenum; appear to me to be circumstances all deserving to be well remembered.

The vomiting, in our second case, first of a brown fluid, and as early as the sixth day, of blood; the death of the patient at the end of the first week; the presence of several ulcers in the duodenum at this early date; its actual perforation in one place by the ulcerative process; and the presence of blood in the stomach, duodenum, and ileum, after death, are so many facts of great interest in relation to the pathology of burns. Dupuytren's observations would not lead us to expect ulceration of the bowels so early. As for the vomiting of blood, and its discharge *per anum*, I am not aware that he has adverted to these occasional consequences of burns at all.

Our last case, besides exemplifying several effects arising from visceral inflammations, presents us with an instance of an ulcer of the mucous membrane of the stomach nearly cicatrized.

These post-mortem investigations seem to me, gentlemen, not only to elucidate the causes of various symptoms, observed to follow burns, but to suggest the question, whether, in the stages of burn, attended with congestion, or actual inflammation of important internal organs, the taking away of blood from the

patient would not be the most likely means of saving the patient's life. In France, I know that the use of leeches, in certain stages of burns, is advocated by some surgeons, as much as they are by certain practitioners here, in the commencement of an attack of erysipelas. In the period of reaction, between the third and eighth days, when the pulse is strong, and there is evidence of visceral inflammation having come on, what measure is so likely, I ask again, to save the patient! Let the result of a moderate abstraction of blood be first ascertained; and, if it be favourable, let the evacuation be repeated with circumspection.—*Lond. Med. Gaz.* March, 1839.

30. *Complete Anchylosis of the five superior cervical vertebræ to each other, and complete dislocation backwards of the fifth from the sixth, without fracture.*—The possibility of the occurrence of complete dislocation of the vertebræ without fracture, the first and second cervical vertebræ excepted, has been doubted by high surgical authorities. The cases recorded by Lawrence, Sir Charles Bell, Rush, and Ehrlich, and the following related by Mr. S. S. STANLEY, are sufficiently conclusive to show that such doubts are wholly unfounded.

A seaman, ætat. 37, fell backwards on his head on the deck. Immediately afterwards he complained of severe pain in the back part of his neck and between the shoulders, and of pain and numbness in the arms; his face was pale, pulse weak. Under the influence of stimulants he rallied for a short time, but subsequently sunk and expired fifty-five and a half hours after the accident.

The *post-mortem* examination showed considerable ecchymosis on the posterior surface of the body from the occiput to the seventh dorsal vertebra, and on dividing the integuments, a quantity of blood was effused into its texture. There was also considerable displacement *backwards* of the fifth from the sixth cervical vertebra *without fracture*. The little finger could easily be passed underneath the last-mentioned vertebra, into the spinal canal; the body of the fifth pressed severely on the spinal cord, and rested on the laminae and spinous process of the sixth cervical vertebræ. The ligaments and intervertebral substance were all ruptured, and, when suspended from above, the parts were held together by the vertebral arteries and spinal marrow, with its theca alone, the theca vertebralis being uninjured.

The whole of the cervical vertebræ from the atlas down to the seat of dislocation, were completely ankylosed. Not the least vestige of ligamentous structure could be observed, with the exception of the capular and occipito-atlantal ligaments; the capsular ligaments and synovial membranes, when cut into, were found to be so much thickened and altered in structure, as more to resemble cartilage than ligament. No trace could be found whatever of the apparatus ligamentosus and lateral ligaments, connecting the occiput with the atlas; neither was there any thing remaining in the form of the ligaments which complete the articulation between the atlas and axis; but Nature, ever bountiful, had formed a beautiful provision for the absence of the transverse ligament, by an isthmus of bone, extending from the anterior aspect of the odontoid process to the posterior concave surface of the anterior arch of the atlas; thus, in most respects, answering every purpose for which the transverse ligament is known, although placed in a situation diametrically opposite.

The most remarkable feature in the whole preparation, and the result of a former dislocation forwards, is the position of the atlas; which, on the right side especially, is pushed forwards and upwards from off the articulating surface of the axis, so as to cause the odontoid process to present itself nearly in the centre of the circle of the atlas. A bridge of bone exactly half-an-inch in length, and varying from three to four lines in breadth, passes nearly horizontally forwards, from the odontoid process to the atlas, and connects them together; the axis is also pushed forwards in the same manner from the third cervical vertebra, but not to so great an extent. Its length, measuring anteriorly from the superior margin of the ring of the atlas to the inferior margin of the body of the fifth cervical vertebra, is three-and-a-half inches. The diameter of the spinal foramen of the atlas, from behind forwards, is exactly one inch and four lines, and the trans-

verse diameter one inch and half a line. The odontoid process, instead of terminating at its apex in a point, as it generally does, presents a broad and irregular ovoid form, measuring, transversely, half an inch, and from behind forwards, including the bony bridge alluded to, one inch; its length is three-fourths of an inch, and its distance from the posterior arch of the ring of the atlas only four lines.—*Lancet*, 23d February, 1839.

31. *On the varieties and Treatment of Fractures of the Ribs.* By J. F. MALGAIGNE.—“From a review of our knowledge on the subject of fractures of the ribs, M. Malgaigne concludes that the clinical and experimental history of this affection is still a desideratum; all which is at present taught in the schools being unsupported by any thing like proof. The author says that his attempt will be to supply the necessary information; for which purpose he has studied the normal figure of the ribs, he has instituted experiments upon the corpse, has collected cases from the living, has procured pathological specimens, and has gathered from books such information as was available for his object.

“*Causes of fractures of the ribs. External causes.* The opinion generally maintained, that fracture of a rib takes place *almost always towards the middle of the rib*, is stated to be incorrect. M. Malgaigne says that the majority of such fractures are seated in the anterior half of the rib. Direct causes may produce their effects on all parts; but the anterior parts are the most exposed to their action, the posterior portions being protected by muscles and by the scapula; the middle, by the arm and the shoulder. And with respect to indirect causes, M. Malgaigne has very often tried to break the ribs by a sudden and forcible pressure on the sternum, but the fracture has always been in the anterior half, and generally nearer to the sternum than to the middle of the ribs. Several reasons may be given why this should be the case. The posterior extremities of these bones being more elevated than the anterior, if, for example, the heel is pressed upon the sternum, on a level with the insertion of the sixth rib, the pressure corresponds posteriorly almost with the level of the tenth rib. The first effect of the pressure upon the anterior extremity of the rib is to force it backwards and downwards simultaneously; that is to say, to diminish in one direction, but to increase in another, the interval which separates the extremities of the bone. When fracture takes place, therefore, it is not in consequence of simple increase of the curve, but because of the twisting which results from the depression of the anterior extremity. As this movement takes place especially in this extremity, it is quite natural that it should more particularly suffer. Again, the anterior pressure acts upon the sternum beyond the anterior extremity of the rib, prolonging the arch in this direction; but the posterior pressure acts particularly on that part of the bone which is just anterior to the angle, and which projects so much behind, that the body rests upon it in decubitus. Now, these two circumstances explain why the centre of the arch, the curve of which is increased by the fracturing force, is much anterior to the centre of the bone. And, lastly, anatomy indicates and experience reveals another reason of the fact above stated. Pressure does not act on all the ribs simultaneously; and those which are not pressed upon, supporting the others, prevent them from yielding as much as if they were isolated. Thus, for example, press with the hand upon the sternum, on a level with the sixth rib; the sternum sinks, and, at the same time, approaches the vertebrae. But, increase the pressure, the bone does not sink any further, and its superior extremity, held firmly by the ribs, remains almost immovable, whilst the inferior is pressed towards the vertebrae. The ribs follow this movement unequally; the sixth rib, being more directly subjected to pressure, bends more; the seventh and the fifth, somewhat less, and so on. So that the point at which flexion commences varies with each rib, and consequently, cannot be always the centre of the arch which they describe, and, lastly, this point of flexion cannot be very far separated from the sternum, because of the resistance of the neighbouring ribs. From this binding together of the ribs when they resist pressure on the sternum, it happens that in almost every case several ribs are simultaneously fractured, when the cause of such fracture is indirect; and,

on the other hand, as these fractures always take place in the anterior half of these bones, a series of fractured ribs in the vicinity of the sternum, excepting where they may have been caused by the wheel of a carriage passing over the ribs themselves, are almost inevitably dependent on an indirect cause. Many individuals suffered fractures of the ribs in an enormous crowd, assembled on the Champs de Mars, in 1837. Of twenty-three who died, seven had fractured ribs. The number of ribs which were broken varied from two to thirteen in the same individual; and all the fractures were anterior, and between one inch and a half and two inches and a half from their cartilages. But a single rib may be broken by an indirect cause; in which case the pressure has acted solely upon the cartilage, or upon the extremity of this rib.

"With regard to the *internal causes* of fracture of the ribs, we can here only allude to several cases, which M. Malgaigne has collected, of fracture taking place during cough, in cases where there does not appear to have been any peculiar fragility of bone. The individuals to whom the accident happened were all, however, somewhat advanced in years. Drs. Gooch and Graves are alluded to by the author as having published cases of this description. In a diagnostic point of view, the fact, possibly of less rare occurrence than is supposed, should not be lost sight of.

"There are three principal kinds of fractured ribs: 1. *Incomplete fractures*.

2. *Simple fractures*. 3. *Multiple fractures*.

"1. *Incomplete fractures*. These may occupy the inferior or superior half of the bone, or the internal or external surface. Fractures of the latter kind are simple or multiplied, most generally affecting the internal table, but sometimes the external alone. Direct or indirect causes produce them, and several ribs are commonly affected at the same time. These fractures are so readily produced, either upon the entire corpse, or upon a rib isolated and separated from the soft parts, that it is difficult to resist the inference that incomplete fractures of the ribs are of much more frequent occurrence than we appear justified, from our actual knowledge, in supposing them to be. Two causes may account for our inability to decide this doubt: the negligent mode of diagnosing fractured rib, and the infrequency of autopsies. But there are cases of incomplete fracture on record, occupying the various situations already mentioned. Such cases are detailed by M. Malgaigne.

"2. *Complete simple fractures*. These are either oblique or transverse, the fracture being clean: or they are very irregular, each fractured surface being covered with projecting points and angles.

"3. *Multiple fractures*. These fractures, although scarcely recognized, are probably as frequent as the second variety. The double fracture is sometimes incomplete. Complete fracture may be associated with an incomplete fracture, or the fracture may be complete in two situations, or there may be three or even four fractures in the same rib. In the "*Musée Dupuytren*," two anatomical specimens are preserved, where several ribs are broken together; in one case, all the fractures are simple; in the other, they are double. Of nine anatomical specimens, in the possession of M. Malgaigne, five exhibit a consolidated simple fracture; two present double complete fractures of the same rib, the middle fragment being from three to four inches in length; one shows the traces of three fractures, the hindmost of which, close to the angle of the rib, appears to have been complete, and the other two, half an inch and four inches anteriorly, are incomplete. In the last specimen are traces of four fractures: one towards the angle of the rib, complete; a second incomplete, and half an inch more anterior; and others, more anterior still, which appear to have been complete. The callus of complete fractures may be readily distinguished, however small may have been the displacement: it surrounds the rib like a rough and projecting ring; whilst in incomplete fractures the external face (unbroken in all the specimens seen by M. Malgaigne) shows no vestige of bony deposit, and the imperfect ring of callus is only seen on the inner surface or on the borders of the bone.

"*Displacements to which fractured ribs are subject*. In the *incomplete fractures*,

when there is but a fissure in the bone, whether longitudinal or ~~transverse~~, there is no displacement. M. Malgaigne broke off the inferior border of the rib with the blow of a hammer, and here there was displacement; and he has a specimen of a fracture of the internal table and diploe, effected by himself, the external table being somewhat depressed opposite the fracture, a depression which would probably escape observation on the living subject. But the most important circumstance in this specimen is, that the anterior fragment of the inner table projects inwards about a line, and that this projection cannot, by any movement, be replaced. By compressing the extremities of the rib, so as to increase its curve, the internal fragment was in some degree replaced; but whilst increasing the pressure, so as to complete the reduction, the external table was broken, and the fracture then rendered complete. A similar result was attained from fracturing the external table and the diploe, without injuring the internal table. A fragment projected externally, which could not be reduced by any means. M. Malgaigne has an anatomical specimen representing, he thinks, this fracture; and he supposes that such an external projection might take place as to be evident, on examination, through the soft parts. The author forced in the seventh rib by a violent blow with a hammer. In the situation of the blow, an angular concavity could be felt, instead of a fracture: the internal table was broken in two points, separated from one another about two inches and a half, and the fragment resulting from this fracture was only adherent by its centre to the rib. Cheselden speaks of having found, in autopsies, upon the external surface of the ribs, an impression of the thumb and four fingers of nurses. It is supposed that the condition of parts may have resembled that just described. M. Malgaigne does not maintain that, even in multiple fractures of this kind, displacement always takes place. When the depression affects several ribs, as happens from the wheel of a carriage, the diagnosis is immediately evident. A depression of various extent and size exists; and if, in examining it with the fingers, no projection of any fragment is felt, if the pressure increases for an instant the depression, without producing any projection, the existence of an incomplete multiple fracture of the internal table may be diagnosed.

"In the *simple complete fractures*, there may often be no displacement, when, for instance, the periosteum is untorn, or the fracture very serrated; but displacement as often occurs, although, frequently, not to such a degree as to be perceptible through the soft parts. Of such displacement, M. Malgaigne has described examples in his possession. In one case the posterior fragment projects inward for nearly a line, and upwards in about the same extent. In a second, the displacement is of the anterior fragment, downwards and backwards about a line. A third shows a projection of the posterior fragment outwards. In one specimen, preserved by Dupuytren, several ribs are affected with simple fracture; the fracture is oblique, from one border to the other, but in opposite directions, and the displacement varies in consequence; thus, in the first of the broken ribs, the anterior fragment projects upwards; in the second, it is depressed beneath the posterior; and in the third, the displacement is similar to the first. In a skeleton, some of the ribs of which had been fractured during life, at about four fingers' breadth from their cartilages, the appearances were as follows: The anterior fragment of the fifth was carried inwards and downwards, the superior interosseous space being evidently diminished backwards; the anterior fragments of the third and fourth were depressed inwards; there was no displacement of the second, and the fracture could only be estimated by the roughness of the callus. Others have noticed such union as clearly indicated displacement: some attributed this to the treatment employed, the pressure recommended by Petit. But this explanation is inadmissible, as evidence of displacement exists when no such treatment was employed. Similar displacements are effected by blows upon the sternum and ribs of the corpse—experiments which have been frequently made by M. Malgaigne.

"*Multiple fractures*. These, when complete, sometimes occur without displacement; more commonly there is displacement of one of the fragments, the other remaining almost in place; and sometimes all the fragments are simultaneously

displaced. M. Malgaigne regards external violence and the configuration of the fracture, as the causes of the displacement. An external shock, for instance, partly fractures a rib: it acts first by thrusting it inwards; a greater force breaks the internal table and diploe, the denticulated form of the fractured surfaces prevents the return of the rib to its original position, and hence there remains a depression of the unbroken external table of the bone. Is the fracture complete? If the fracture is transverse and smooth, there is commonly no displacement, the bone returning, by its elasticity, to its original situation. But exception must be made for fractures occurring very near the sternum; partly in consequence of the ligamentous attachment of the ribs to this bone, the anterior fragment moving inwards and outwards, and which, when it has been carried inwards, has not, in consequence of the articulation, the elasticity of the posterior fragment. The case is similar, where a broken portion has become bent by a second fracture, either complete or incomplete; there remains no elasticity by which it may regain its position. When the fracture is oblique, the direction of its obliquity commonly determines that of the displacement. The denticulated extremities of fractured ribs are the most frequent among the causes of continued displacement: but with regard to fractures near the sternum, a special cause of displacement in a certain direction exists, and which also tends to reproduce displacement when it has been remedied. Pressure upon the sternum depresses the sternal portion rather than the other, and this pressure tends also to carry it downwards, motion in the two directions sometimes coexisting. This (the sternal) portion being depressed, the posterior fragment projects simply because it remains in its place. Decubitus on the back, a circumstance well deserving the attention of the surgeon, augments this projection, the posterior fragment of the ribs being pushed forwards; and if the patient lie upon the fractured side, there is still greater projection. The nearer the fracture is to the sternum, the more evident are these circumstances, and most particularly in fracture of the cartilages. M. Malgaigne has found, in the last case, that by varying the pressure upon the ribs, the anterior or posterior fragment might be made to project; a fact from which he has derived a method of treatment, to be noticed.

"The *diagnosis* must be inferred from what has been said concerning the kinds of displacement. It is frequently very difficult, and always requires very great care. There are some special causes of error, which should be borne in mind. The insertions of the obliquus descendens and serratus magnus muscles might give rise to the notion of displacement, in consequence of their abrupt projection beneath the finger, especially when pain causes any spasmodic contractions in these muscles; and in some subjects there are remarkable projections at the union of the cartilage with the bone of the rib.

"*Treatment.* The treatment of fractured ribs is shown, by what has preceded, to be less simple than most surgeons have conceived it to be. The fractures without displacement require only to be kept at rest; those with displacement, and which are not disposed to be displaced when reduced, require reduction, in addition; and when there is a tendency to displacement after reduction, there is a third indication to fulfil, i. e. to prevent such secondary displacement.

"1. *Means of keeping the ribs immovable.* The rules laid down for using the bandage for the trunk are, that it is indispensable when it alleviates pain caused by respiratory efforts; that when there are no such pains, it is needless to employ the bandage; and that if pain continues notwithstanding its use, it is both useless and injurious. In individuals with a large chest and vigorous constitution, the circular bandage is safe. M. Malgaigne prefers the following mode of applying it. Surround the chest, first of all, with a common bandage, and apply over this a piece of cere-cloth (sparadrap), about three fingers broad, and sufficiently long to pass twice round the body. But in feeble individuals, with narrow chests, agitated by chronic coughs or paroxysms of asthma, the indication is to confine the constriction to the injured side; an indication which it is not easy to fulfil. Decubitus upon the injured side would be very useful, could it be borne: if not, a demi-cuirass, made by soaking a bandage in an amylaceous

decoction, might fulfil the proposed indication. But on this point M. Malgaigne only throws out suggestions, not having made it the subject of experiment. But he tried, in the following manner, to limit the action of the thorax by bands of cere-cloth (sparadrap). The commencement of one band was applied on a level with the anterior extremity of the seventh rib of the right side, thence passed around the left side of the thorax, beneath the left scapula, and over the right shoulder: from this point it was passed a second time around the left side of the thorax, ending on a level with the crista of the right ilium. The costal respiration of the left side was thus evidently impeded, whilst it continued quite free on the right side. It would appear that the left ribs might be much more directly acted upon, by surrounding them with an oblique bandage, the two ends of which should cross one another at the right hip; but in this case the anterior part of the bandage, by compressing the abdomen, would interfere materially with the diaphragmatic respiration, which it is very important in these cases properly to manage. Or again, one side of the thorax might be acted upon by means of the spring of a hernial truss, the sternum and the spine being points on which the spring should press. A strap passing over the opposite shoulder might be used to support this, and, if necessary, a large vertical splint might be placed between the centre of the spring and the convexity of the ribs. This apparatus is applicable for the fulfilment of another indication, hereafter to be noticed.

"2. *Means of reducing the displaced fragment.* In simple or double fractures, with depression of one fragment, the indication may consist only in elevating the depressed portion. But in some cases there is an actual projection of the other fragment outward, produced by the bad position of the patient; but change of position suffices to rectify this. With regard to the former indication, M. Malgaigne observes that he had frequently tried the experiment on the corpse, of pressing gently downwards the fragment which remained in its proper situation, until it came in contact with the depressed fragment. He found that the inequalities of the two broken surfaces fitted into each other; and that, on removing the pressure, the elasticity of the rib brought back into its right position the former fragment, bringing the depressed portion with it. To effect this, certain conditions are necessary: if the fracture occupies the middle of a true rib, or is further backward, it is of little consequence which is the depressed portion; if it is more anterior, the posterior fragment alone possesses sufficient elasticity to produce the above effect, so that, were this fragment itself depressed, it would not be really elevated. With regard to the false ribs, whatever situation the fracture may occupy, the anterior fragment can only be elevated by means of the posterior. Fortunately, by virtue of this elasticity, the depression of the former is much more frequent than that of the latter. Two cases are related in support of these views of treatment, derived from experiment upon the corpse. In one of these, although the reduction was not accomplished, the manipulations caused a sudden and remarkable relief of pain, leading to the belief that some irritating portion of bone might have been removed from contact with the lung. Remark- ing on the cases alluded to, M. Malgaigne observes that it required but in a trifling degree to diminish the depression of one fragment to cause an instantaneous cessation of most acute pain, very probably by disengaging the lung from a fragment of bone which was pricking and irritating it, and bringing back the projecting piece beneath the costal pleura. It is to these depressed portions of bone that may be attributed the acute pains and the visceral inflammations which sometimes accompany fractured ribs; and if it is remembered that, frequently, whether the fracture be complete or incomplete, the displacement may not appear at all externally, whilst there is a considerable prominence of a portion of the inner table of the bone, we may be disposed to regard this circumstance as of more importance than has hitherto been the case. Morbid anatomy confirms (although not with much proof) the above explanation. M. Malgaigne contends that the necessity is almost as great for removing fragments of bone from the lung, as for removing them when driven into the brain. He alludes to the various methods which have been suggested for effecting this object; and he

suggests the following: to take a needle, covered like a tenaculum, to plunge it as far as the superior border of the depressed fragment, and thence to pass it over the inner surface, almost as far as the channel in which runs the intercostal artery, employing the instrument then as a simple elevator. The incision may be thus avoided; and such a puncture is very harmless.

"3. *Means of preventing return of displacements.* In fractures near the sternum, there is actual danger of this occurrence; and its causes are decubitus upon the back, and particularly on the injured side. The twofold indication is to keep the healthy side of the thorax forwards, so that the fragment which is attached to the sternum may be drawn in the same direction, and to keep up a constant pressure upon the portion which projects, equal in amount to the resistance afforded by the elasticity of the rib. The former indication is quite fulfilled in serious cases, by decubitus on the healthy side; and then, also, the little disposition of the ribs to move would render the second almost useless. But in less important cases, where the patient wishes to move about, and to walk, the two indications are fulfilled simultaneously by a truss for hernia, with a long spring, one extremity of which presses posteriorly upon the projection of the ribs, on the sound side; the other anteriorly, upon the posterior fragment itself. To obviate the injurious effects of prolonged pressure, compresses may be employed. —*B. & F. Med. Rev.* April, 1828, from *Archives Gén. de Méd.* July and August, 1838.

32. *On the application of Raw Cotton to Erysipelatous Surfaces.*—M. REYNAUD, chief surgeon of the French marine, and professor of clinical surgery has published a long paper in a late number of the *Journal des Connaissances Médico-Chirurgicales*, on the good effects of applying raw cotton to erysipelatous surfaces. He was led to try it in such cases, from its acknowledged utility in many examples of burns; all the forms of which, from a simple scalding of the surface to a complete adhesion of the integuments, M. Reynaud has for a number of years treated with covering the parts with cotton. In the milder form of the accident, the cotton often soothes almost instantaneously the severe pain, and thus mitigates or checks the febrile excitement which is so apt to ensue; while in the more severe cases, although it does not prevent the suppuration and sphacelation, these processes usually go on more quickly and more favorably under its application. If the remedy is so decidedly useful in burns, we cannot be surprised at its utility in erysipelas. The burning, stinging pain of the disease, we are informed, very speedily abates, the surface becomes moist and perspirable, the swelling and redness diminish, and the skin recovers its healthy pliancy and softness, with little or no subsequent desquamation of its cuticle. The constitutional symptoms of erysipelas being always in a great measure proportionate to the severity of the local distress, they are necessarily much mitigated, and all the functions quickly resume their normal rhythm. M. Reynaud informs us that he has successfully used the cotton medication in all the various forms of erysipelas, idiopathic and traumatic, without regard to the seat or duration of the disease.

The *modus operandi* of this remedy is, according to him, by promoting a free exhalation from the surface, and by confining the moist and warm atmosphere, thus induced, around the inflamed surface. A steady and uniform temperature is thereby maintained, and the contact of the air and light—two potent stimulants of the skin—is prevented. The cotton application alone is not sufficient, however, it must be admitted, in all cases of burns; nor ought it to supersede the use of other local remedies, when these are deemed proper.

When used, it ought to be well carded, and freed from all roughnesses or foreign bodies. The affected part should be enveloped in a moderately thick cushion of it, and a roller should be then passed loosely around, to confine it in contact with the skin.

Fourteen cases are narrated by M. Reynaud; in proof of the efficacy of the cotton application. In four of these the erysipelas affected the face. The constitutional treatment consisted in the use of blood-depletions, of purgatives and

refrigerant diuretics. The cotton was applied to the inflamed parts and kept in its place by the night-cap and by handkerchiefs. All the patients recovered. It is proper to observe, that none of these four cases appear to have been severe. In the remaining ten cases, the erysipelas affected the lower extremities.—*Med. Chirurg. Rev.* January, 1839.

33. *Deafness from Disease of the Lining Membrane of the Tympanum.—Use of the Acetate of Lead.* The following interesting case of disease of the lining membrane of the tympanum relieved by the use of acetate of lead is related by Mr. ARNOTT in the *London Medical Gazette*, (April 13, 1839.)

Thomas Parker, ætat 19, was admitted into the Middlesex Hospital January 28th, with ulcer of the leg. He was deaf, and his countenance was characteristic of that infirmity. On an accurate examination of the degree to which this sense was impaired, a watch was employed, the ticking of which can be heard at the distance of 20 feet. Parker could not recognize it with his left ear further off than five inches; with the right, not further than nineteen. There was no redness, swelling, or rawness, of the parietes of the external meatus. Not the slightest appearance of wax in the left, and but a very trifling in the right ear. The membrana tympani in each was gone; the cavity of the tympanum in both was filled with a milky secretion, devoid of offensive odour. This having been in some degree removed by syringing the parts, the lining-membrane of the tympanum was seen to be more tumid and redder than natural. The patient had been deaf since he was a child; he had always had more or less discharge from his ears, and had been told that some bones had come away. Repeated blistering, and a variety of injections, had been ineffectually tried by him.

Besides the destruction of the membrana tympani, and a loss of the bones of the ear, the chief existing morbid action seemed to be seated in the mucous membrane of that cavity itself, unconnected with disease of the temporal bone.

With the view of correcting this, a solution of the acetate of lead—six grains to the ounce of water—was ordered to be dropped into the ear twice daily, and the parts to be syringed with it once daily. Under this treatment the improvement was unexpectedly rapid. In five days the hearing distance of the left ear had increased from five inches to two feet ten inches; in the right, from nineteen inches to seven feet five inches; and (without taking the intermediate periods) in three weeks, in the left ear, to fifteen feet; and in the right to eighteen. Long previous to this, however, he was quite able to take part in conversation, and his countenance had assumed an expression of intelligence, most singularly contrasting with its former dulness and apparent stupidity. The discharge now ceased, and the lining of the cavity of the tympanum had lost that swollen and pulpy appearance it had previously presented. And probably connected with these changes, the patient was now able to cause air to pass from the throat out of the external ear, which in the first instance he could not do.

The acetate of lead is a safer application to the ear than the more powerful astringents; and the present case shows its beneficial effects in remedying a diseased state of the mucous membrane of the cavity of the tympanum. This diseased state removed, hearing was restored to a degree which, perhaps, you might not have expected, if you previously supposed the existence of the membrana tympani absolutely essential for hearing.

34. *Congenital Club-Foot.*—A paper by Dr. KRAUSS, was read to the Medical Society of London which contains some views, worthy of notice. Dr. K. is of opinion that the anatomy of congenital varus is intimately connected with its cure, and believes, in opposition to Scarpa and Dr. Little, that the displacement of the astragalus is one of the principal and most characteristic symptoms of varus. The ascertainment of this displacement, whether it be of a primary or a secondary origin, was highly important, as on it were founded the two principal conditions of the mechanical instrument employed in its cure. With all deference to the merits of Dr. Stromeyer, he (Dr. Krauss) did not consider the methods and principles of that physician's practice to be so perfect as not to

admit of improvement. Regarding the Stromeyerian method of dividing tendons with two punctures of the skin, and with a concave or convex fistula knife, Dr. Krauss observed, that the convex knife could be used with advantage, only when the tendon to be divided was prominent, the skin covering it not too thin and tight, and the part to which the tendon was attached of small volume. If the tendon was not prominent, and more of a flat than of a rounded shape, it was difficult to encircle the tendon at once by a concave knife, and thus it was often preferable to use a short convex knife, with a straight back, if it was possible and required to press down the skin on one side of the tendon, in order to introduce the knife deep enough to pass through the whole of its body. Although it was of no particular consequence to make two punctures of the skin, yet, as the operation could be more easily performed by making one puncture, the former method need not be adopted. Dr. Little sometimes used a convex, sometimes a concave knife, for the purpose of dividing the tendo Achillis. Dr. Krauss considered that a concave knife was not convenient for that purpose, because the front surface of the tendon was flat, and its posterior surface convex; and, again, in dividing the tendon, even with a convex knife, the part of the tendon corresponding with its greatest convexity becomes divided the last. Dr. Krauss also objects to the mode of introducing the knife flatways, and then turning its cutting edge towards the tendon, for he says that by this proceeding the parts are apt to be injured by the turning of the blade of the instrument. It was inconvenient to place the patient in a chair when the tendo Achillis was to be divided, inasmuch as the back surface of the leg was not brought towards the face of the operator, and it was, therefore, impossible to make an accurate examination either during or after the operation. In proof of the justice of these remarks, Dr. Krauss referred to the fourth and fifth cases of Dr. Little, recorded in *THE LANCET*, in which it was necessary for the operations to be repeated, in consequence of some fibrous strings remaining undivided by the first operation.

The mechanical part of the treatment of club-foot was by far the most important and difficult. He (Dr. K.) considered that the footboard of Stromeyer was deficient, as it possessed no proper means of fastening the foot, or of straightening the curve which the foot forms in varus; as it only acted by a fixed pressure, and did not admit either of the patient's walking or standing.

Dr. Krauss insisted upon the necessity of distinguishing accurately between congenital and non-congenital varus. In the latter, as the displacement and change of shape of the tarsal bones did not arrive at such a high degree; as the ligaments were looser, and as the deformity was almost maintained through the contraction of certain muscles, it followed that the cure was, in general, possible, up to the age which permitted the division of tendons; while on the contrary, the cure of congenital varus depended not only upon the age and constitution of the patient, but also upon the degree of displacement and change of shape of the tarsal bones, and the degree of the rigidity of the ligaments.

Dr. Krauss considered that bony vegetations did not often prevent the cure of varus; the articulating surfaces, it was true, had partly lost their polish, and were rough, but the efforts of nature powerfully assisted in polishing them again after the straightening of the foot had been effected. Indeed, he believed that there were few cases of congenital varus previous to the age of thirty which did not admit of cure. The cases of congenital varus cured by Stromeyer, and related in his recent publication, referred to children of one, two, and five years of age, only one as late as the ninth year being recorded, and in this the deformity existed only in a slight degree. In the case of congenital varus, presented by Dr. Little to the Society, at the first meeting of the session, as the most difficult he had cured, the foot assumed its natural shape in eight or nine weeks after the division of the tendo Achillis, and was, therefore, evidently a case of a slight kind. The means of curing aggravated cases of congenital varus consisted in a proper mechanical treatment, for which purpose the instruments of Stromeyer were insufficient.

Dr. Krauss has never had an opportunity of examining any tendons after division in the human subject, but he has made a variety of experiments on

rabbits and other animals, and he had found that the uniting substance was of a fibrous texture, the fibres running rather in a transverse than a longitudinal direction, and formed a structure quite as strong as the tendon itself. He had often found that the intermediate substance was of much larger volume than the tendon. In one case, in the human subject, in which he had divided the tendo Achillis, inflammation of the intermediate substance, of an acute character, set in three or four weeks after the operation. The new structure was, by this means very much thickened; the thickness was eventually considerably, though never entirely, reduced. In another instance he had felt the new tendon to be very hard to the touch, as though there was a deposit of cartilage in it; and, in another case in which inflammation and suppuration followed the division of the tendon, union eventually took place, but it was three months before the limb could be exercised.

Mr. BRYANT said that the experiments just alluded to, differed in their results from those of Sir A. Cooper, who had found that divided tendons invariably united by bone.

Dr. KRAUSS replied, that as far as he knew, in the experiments on the division of tendons, made by various continental operators, bony union did not follow.—*Lancet*, 13th April, 1839.

35. *Case of Ranula in which the left submaxillary gland was extirpated.*—The following operation performed by J. G. MALCOMSON, Esq., Ass. Surg. Madras Establishment, is so remarkable as to deserve to be put on record, though we would not wish by so doing to be supposed to recommend a recourse to it under similar circumstances.

"In the beginning of 1828, a sickly-looking Hindoo boy, nine years of age, was brought to Chicacole from an unhealthy hill district, on account of a swelling which extended from one ear to the other, over the angles of the jaw and to the sternum, near which it was more distended than above, and slightly pendulous, so as to admit of being raised from the skin covering the superior extremity of the bone; it was quite soft, and evidently contained a fluid. The disease commenced about a year before, below the jaw and a little to the left of the chin, and had gradually increased downwards, and up to the ears. The patient stated, that for some time before the appearance of the tumour, there had been a discharge of pus half an inch behind, and lateral to the mouth of the duct of the left submaxillary gland, where there was a depressed cicatrix, about a line in diameter, on the formation of which the swelling commenced. Near the cicatrix, there was a carious tooth. A very slight discharge of saliva from the left submaxillary duct could still be observed. There was no swelling in the mouth; but a hardness could be felt below the jaw, a little to the left side, and there were several scars in the centre of the swelling, caused by repeated applications of the actual cautery.

"I concluded from these facts, that the submaxillary ducts or gland having been inflamed, probably from the irritation of the diseased tooth, the passage of the saliva was interrupted, and making its way into the loose cellular substance of the throat, had gradually distended the integuments to the enormous size above described. In this view of the case, the following questions suggested themselves as to the probable termination of the complaint, if left to itself; viz. whether there was any chance of its ceasing to increase by the action of the absorbents, or was it more likely to separate the skin from the chest, or to burst into that cavity, the windpipe, or externally? There could be no doubt, on the most favourable supposition, that it would for ever prevent the patient from gaining his own subsistence.

"A tentative puncture was made into the most prominent part of the swelling, by which 20 ounces of a glairy, transparent fluid, of a light brown tinge, was discharged; a hard, movable substance was then felt within the integuments; it was extracted by enlarging the opening, and proved to be a part of the fluid which had become inspissated. The real nature of the case, and the absence of any other disease having been ascertained, the opening was left free, in hopes

that some contraction of the mass of loose skin would take place, and that a part of it would again adhere to the subjacent parts, but in consequence of the collapse of the sides, the discharge, which was mixed with blood and matter, was not free, and had to be pressed out every morning. The patient then absented himself for some days, during which the wound healed, the fluid again collected, and another puncture was made in consequence. After this the skin of the cheeks appeared to unite with the muscles, from which it had been separated, and the second object seemed in part to be gained; I therefore on being suddenly ordered to another station, recommended him to a medical friend, and instructed the people to squeeze out the secretion daily.

"I heard no more of him till the 15th of March, when he arrived at Vizianagram, and both he and his relations earnestly requested me to relieve him. The opening had again closed; a new puncture was made, and several ounces of fluid of a lighter colour, and thinner consistence than before, were evacuated. A tent was left in the wound, some inflammation followed, and a good deal of matter was discharged along with the glairy fluid; the skin contracted a little, but it was evident, that little could be expected from this plan. Having procured a very fine probe, I found it passed into the duct of the gland, and some saliva flowed from it: this diminished my confidence in the opinion I had formed of the disease, but convinced me, that it could not be cured by endeavouring to restore the communication by the mouth, and removing the swelling by puncture and pressure. I therefore resolved to remove a portion of skin constituting the front of the sac, ascertain if the fluid came from the gland, and take such farther measures as might be necessary.

"On the 30th, I placed him on a table, and punctured the tumour three inches above the sternum; and after the fluid was evacuated, cut away an oval portion of the skin (of the size of two and a half by two inches,) which was much thickened from the cicatrices of the cauteries and punctures. The throat now exhibited an extraordinary appearance: from behind the ears, over the angles of the jaw, and down to the chest, it seemed as if carefully dissected; the blue veins and parotid glands shining through the cellular membrane. I in vain looked for any opening, from which the fluid might come; the possibility of its being derived from the left parotid, or of its being an encysted tumour, whose sac had become condensed with the surrounding parts, at the same time occurred to my mind; in either of which cases nothing more remained, than to close up the wound, and to try what could be done by pressure. The cellular membrane in the mesial line had become condensed, and formed the hardness felt in the neck; it was therefore removed.

"Having examined with attention a soft round body, of the size and colour of a small lymphatic gland, partly embedded in the left submaxillary gland, I observed a very minute puncture, as if from the point of a needle, and on gentle pressure, a glairy fluid flowed from it. I immediately proceeded to separate the gland from the surrounding parts, which at first was not difficult; but on getting into the hollow of the jaw, it was more firmly attached, and the space was so narrow, that it was difficult to use the knife. A ligature was passed through the gland, by which it was drawn out; but it was still difficult to tie the vessels which bled. One very considerable vessel, (the lower maxillary,) was cut, the bleeding from which was stopped by pressure made on the carotid; but it could not be secured, until Lieut H., (who in the absence of another surgeon assisted,) put his thumb into the mouth, and pushed the gland downwards, which greatly assisted the rest of the operation. Then by passing a curved needle through the parts several times, and cutting between the gland and the ligature, the whole was removed, except a small process, which passed between the anterior belly of the digastric and the mylo-hyoideus muscles, and probably joined the sublingual gland; to this the actual cautery was applied.

"The operation took up a considerable time, in consequence of the delay, which took place before the gland was ascertained to be diseased, the faintness which several times occurred from loss of blood and pain, and the necessity of caution in cutting parts deep and out of easy reach. Four ligatures remained

on the vessels, the parts were carefully cleaned, and the edges brought together by three ligatures and plaster; compresses and bandages were applied, and thirty drops of laudanum given to the patient, who was put to rest.

"31st. Did not sleep from the opium; but rested well in the night. Complaints of pain below the jaw. Ol. Ricini 3ss. Cold water to the bandages.

"April 6th. On the 2d had a purgative, which removed a slight degree of fever which had come on; the tongue became clean, and his appetite returned. The greater part of the wound has healed, and there is very little discharge. Slight fulness at the lower part of the left side of the neck.

"10th. Fulness has increased, the part is painful, and fluctuation is evident; great anxiety is expressed regarding this, as the swelling originally commenced on the same side; it, however, has now the character of an abscess. The wound has healed, except at the ligatures, one of which, and the sutures have come away. A poultice is applied to the swelling, and the diseased tooth extracted.

"11th. The cicatrix in the mouth has opened, and discharges matter, and a probe passes one and a half inches down.

"12th. The swelling having pointed, it is opened, and some exceedingly offensive pus, mixed with brown matter, is evacuated.

"The poultice was left off in a couple of days, and compresses were applied over the cavity of the abscess, and the incision kept open by a tent. Under this treatment, it healed rapidly; a little discharge from the opening in the mouth continued some time longer. I did not see him again till the 27th, when he was quite well; the cicatrix in his throat was very small, and did not disfigure him; the opening into the mouth had healed, and a minute portion of saliva flowed from the duct of the submaxillary gland, on the left side, probably from the sublingual gland."—*Trans. Med. and Phys. Soc. Calcutta*, Vol. VIII. p. 1.

36. *Suetin's Immovable Fracture-apparatus*.—Dr. FRICKE of Hamburg relates in the *Zeitschrift für die g. Med.* for April 1838, sixteen cases of Fracture successfully treated by this apparatus. He waits until the swelling and inflammation have subsided before applying the bandages.

37. *Case of Extensive Aneurism by Anastomosis, in a child ten months old, involving the branches of the Temporal and posterior Auricular Arteries, treated successfully by the Twisted Suture*.—A very interesting case of this is recorded by Dr. J. MACLACHLAN in the *Edinburgh Med. & Surg. Journ.* for April last. The subject of it was a remarkably fine, stout, healthy female twin child, who was observed, a fortnight after birth, to have on the right temple a small reddish flat mark, not much larger than a pin-head. The discolouration slowly spread, and gradually rose above the surface. When seen by Dr. M. in the fifth month, there was in front of the right ear, immediately above the zygoma, a tumour possessing the character of aneurism by anastomosis, extending upwards for about an inch, and being half an inch in breadth. There were several small flat livid spots behind the ear and about the cartilages. In two months the tumour had rapidly increased in every direction. It had ulcerated superficially behind the ear, and there was a copious discharge of purulent matter from the external meatus. Having attained certain dimensions, it appeared to remain stationary. The parts behind the ear were, however, constantly breaking out into superficial ulcerated points, from which occasionally there was an oozing of arterial blood. Compression upon the temporal artery was tried, but for want of a proper apparatus, very ineffectually; and also the application of ice and astringents, but as might have been expected without benefit.

On the 2d of April 1838, the child being then ten months old, the tumour presented the following characters. "It appeared to be chiefly arterial. A few enlarged veins encircled and ran through it; but it seemed essentially to consist in an enlargement in size, if not in number, of the branches of the superficial temporal and posterior auricular arteries. Commencing at the root of the zygomatic process, it proceeded directly upwards, reaching nearly the anterior fontanelle, and terminating in a nuckle-like eminence. This, the temporal por-

tion, measured three inches and a half in length; at its origin it was rather more than an inch in breadth, and, when distended, it rose throughout fully three-fourths of an inch above the surface. The whole of the figured parts of the ear were either of a livid or bright strawberry colour, little if at all elevated in front, but in the angle behind forming a livid flaccid swelling. Immediately in front of the mastoid process, this was of the size of a small filbert. From this point it took a semicircular course backwards, following the direction of a superficial branch of the posterior auricular artery, and extending upwards of two inches. Towards the angle of the lower jaw there was a diffused subcutaneous tumefaction of a bluish cast. The whole of the tumour, with this exception, was of a deep strawberry colour, mammillated, brightening as it distended, and with a bluish tinge here and there. The least exertion of crying produced a remarkable increase in the temporal and occipital portions, and there was a constant thrilling felt on applying the fingers to the temple. There were also two detached, small, circular, flat *nævi* close upon the orbit, and two or three others of the same nature above the ear on this side."

At the date last mentioned Dr. M. introduced four needles. The first traversed a space of an inch and a half in front of the ear, immediately above the zygoma, "the intention being, if practicable, to get under the root of the temporal artery. No alteration, however, followed; on the contrary, the whole tumour became enormously distended by the cries and efforts of the child. The second needle was pushed through half an inch from the termination of this portion of the tumour, so as to cut off any communication with the opposite side. The third was introduced parallel with, and half an inch from, the first, this part having enlarged considerably on twisting the thread round the first needle. The fourth was inserted immediately in front of the mastoid process, close to the lobule of the ear, embracing, apparently, the posterior auricular artery. This suture was instantly followed by a most satisfactory diminution of the tumour occupying the posterior part of the helix, as well as a change of colour in the concha and *meatus externus*. The child was soon quieted; and in half an hour after it fell into a sound sleep, interrupted momentarily by startings. Between three and four o'clock it was up and lively. It slept sound during the night.

"4th April, Third day.—The child was seen regularly twice a-day since the second, and did not appear to have suffered the least inconvenience from the needles. The temporal portion of tumour appeared to be more flaccid, and of a deeper blue. The mastoideal and occipital portions were stationary. The child's health was undisturbed, and the needles were firm.

"6th April, Fifth day.—The needle behind the ear was removed to-day, there being slight discharge from the punctures, with surrounding excoriation, the tumefied parts overlapping and being irritated by it. The remainder were firm. In the neighbourhood of excoriation were several hard nodules, occasioned by effused fibrin, and resembling an external hæmorrhoid. The posterior part of the ear, as also the meatus, were already much reduced. Four more needles were introduced, the situation of which are pointed out in the accompanying plate. On this occasion, waxed thick purse-silk was employed, as being less likely to cut the skin. Several turns of the silk were made over the parts isolated by the needles, by crossing it from one needle to the other. The child cried less, and fell into a sound sleep soon after the operation.

"7th April, Sixth day.—Health continued undisturbed. The first and third needles introduced on the second were withdrawn to-day, though firmly fixed. A drop of blood followed the removal of the first. The silk has been allowed to remain. Excoriation behind much deeper.—A weak solution of the sulphate of zinc to be applied.

"8th April, Seventh day.—The temporal portion of tumour was less red. The part anterior to the ear was firm, semitransparent, and of a very pale-blue colour, evidently resulting from effused fibrin. The remaining needle was introduced on the 2d. The one near the termination of the temporal portion, the second inserted, was removed to-day. Neither discharge nor ulceration had

taken place at either of the points. The child has been lively and in high spirits. Excoriation discharging copiously, but not extending.

"11th, The remaining needles were removed, and found slightly oxidized. Behind the ear ulceration is rather deeper, and yesterday the discharge was discoloured with blood. From the surface of the tumour, immediately above the zygoma, issued a slight sanious and purulent discharge, but the parts underneath felt firm. On withdrawing the seventh needle, a drop of scarlet blood followed. The parts embraced by the silk are white, but not ulcerated.

"The child was daily visited since last report. Its health continued undisturbed, and there appeared to be a decrease in the whole tumour operated upon; at all events, it was not nearly so much elevated when the child cries, nor is it so bright.

"13th, Discharge from ulcerated parts was much increased, and the tract of the first needle in front of the ear was deeper. The whole tumour above this was also superficially ulcerated and discharging thin ichor. The subjacent parts continued firm, and, excepting when the tumour is touched, the child appeared to be free from pain.

"In rather less than three weeks from this date the ulcerations had healed under common applications, the solution of the sulphate of zinc, or the white oxide of zinc ointment. The tumour gradually disappeared, leaving a firm fibrous texture of a whitish colour indented with the tract of the needles, and very closely resembling a superficial burn. That portion behind the ear of a crescentic form, retained for some time its brightness. I was desirous of passing under and through it two or three needles; but the mother, who all along appeared to view the measure adopted as an experiment, offered so many objections that my intention was not carried into effect. This I scarcely regret. At the period I am writing (30th November, 1838,) the skin had nearly acquired its natural colour, interspersed only in front and behind the ear with some little red points. The previous extent of the tumour could now hardly be traced, the hair is growing over it, and, as the child advances in years, that portion only in front of the ear will be exposed. There is still a small flaccid livid swelling, rather larger than a pea, in the loose integuments in front of the mastoid process, not, however, under the influence of the circulation; and the mother says it is decreasing.

"It would be difficult to find a more satisfactory or successful case than the above. In this instance, at least, Lallemand's method effected all that could be desired. It is obvious that no other could have been attended with so little risk. Excision was out of the question; the boldest operator, and the most dexterous dissector, would scarcely have attempted the knife. Ligature of the carotid artery was a measure uncertain in result. Although Mr. Travers succeeded by tying the carotid in a case of aneurism by anastomosis in the orbit, the very free inosculature in the scalp appears to be unfavourable when the tumour is situated there; and it has been remarked by Mr. Phillips,* 'that ligature of the carotid has never succeeded in one of the cases in which it has been employed by Pellétan, Mussey, and Wilhaume, for the cure of erectile tumours affecting the temporal fossa. The case related by Dr. Mussey, in the American Journal of Medical Sciences, February 1830, in which he tied both primitive carotids for a large aneurism by anastomosis, on the vertex, and had in six weeks after to extirpate the tumour, is not in favour of the ligature. In a case operated upon by Dupuytren also, in which he tied the carotid for a large *nævus* situated about the ear, and including the whole texture of the surrounding parts, the operation was equally unsuccessful. It appears to be more certain in cylindrical dilatation of the arteries. Mr. Syme and others have recorded cases in which they succeeded; but, as it is observed by Lawrence, 'tying the arteries, or the main trunks of the vessels which supply the part of the body in which *nævi* are situated, cannot according to our present experience, be much relied on.' Extirpation and ligature of the carotid being rejected, the only remaining method that appeared at all applicable was that proposed and executed by Mr.

Fawdington of Manchester, the seton; but the purely arterial nature of the tumour seemed to render it hazardous, and the needles were employed, as being less likely to be followed by hæmorrhage.

"A remarkable circumstance in the history of this case is, that very few needles, eight only, were sufficient to obliterate the tumour. The repeated ulcerations behind the ear seemed to be an effort of nature to destroy the disease, requiring only a little assistance from art to perfect the cure. Another point worthy of remark, was the total absence of constitutional irritation from the needles. Aware of the danger of punctured wounds in the scalp, I was rather apprehensive of an attack of erysipelas; and, as the needle behind the ear must have embraced some branches of the *portio dura*, there were grounds for anticipating other disagreeable consequences. However, no constitutional effect whatever followed the insertion of the needles on either days. The operation was completed without the loss of a single drop of blood; and the tumour was removed with little or no deformity. These, then, appear to be the principal advantages of the treatment of aneurism by anastomosis, or nævi, by the twisted suture; viz: simplicity; little or no pain in its performance; little or no constitutional disturbance; little deformity, perhaps less, if necessary, except the seton, than by any other method; and little or no risk of hæmorrhage. On this last point Lallemand remarks, 'the fear of hæmorrhage is groundless. Immediately after the needle is introduced it fills the wound it has made, and in a very short time inflammation changes the nature of the surfaces divided, and hæmorrhage becomes impossible.'

"I employed fine darning needles, previously prepared with wax-heads, to handle them by. Although Lallemand appears to have used needles, he recommends pins, such as are used for transfixing insects, as being more easily cut or broken off than sewing-needles. He considers thread unnecessary;—'it prolongs the operation, does not increase the inflammation, nor is it necessary to prevent hæmorrhage.' It appears to me, however, to assist the progress of the cure; by compressing the vessels, it induces adhesive inflammation in their sides; they are more readily obliterated, and the nature of the tumour is essentially changed, though the irritation occasioned by the presence of the needles seems to be the chief source of benefit.

"Successful, however, as the twisted suture has been in the case of nævi and aneurism by anastomosis, like every other method employed, it has occasionally failed. In two cases seen by M Bouchacourt, the twisted suture practised twice was without benefit; yet it is well deserving a trial. In a considerable majority it will be found to answer; and it is less objectionable than most plans."

OPHTHALMOLOGY.

38. *On Injuries of the Eye by Percussion Caps.* By SAMUEL CROMPTON, Esq.—The following observations were made in the practice of Mr. Barton, surgeon to the Manchester Eye Institution, to whom I am indebted for permission to publish the illustrative cases, and his method of treating them.

One of the fragments, into which a percussion cap breaks when it is exploded, sometimes enters the eye. The accident generally occurs in shooting with, or in discharging, percussion caps with a hammer. I have seen many instances of it, and have preserved notes of seven cases, in each of which the injured eye was destroyed. In one of these cases the vision of the other eye, also, was nearly lost, from sympathetic inflammation; and it is most likely that there would have been a similar termination of the rest, if that treatment, which I shall presently describe, had not been adopted. The peculiarities and importance of these injuries, and the consideration that they are unnoticed by systematic writers on the eye, have induced me to detail, more minutely than would have otherwise seemed necessary, the most remarkable circumstances relating to them.

In every case the fragment of cap was driven into the posterior chamber of the eye; but immediately after the accident, the changes produced in the eye, and the symptoms, were so like those observable in penetrating wounds of that organ, when no foreign body remains in it, that it was impossible to ascertain, at first, whether the cap was in the eye or not. The wound made by the entrance of the fragment of cap into the eyeball was generally a clean incised one, and healed readily. The vision was not destroyed immediately in those cases in which the cap went through the sclerotica, and did not injure the transparent parts of the eye. For a length of time, varying from a few days to a month after the accident, the patients appeared to be in a fair way for immediate recovery; but at the expiration of that time they were suddenly seized with most acute pain in the eye, attended with extensive chemosis, and with haziness of the cornea in some of the cases. Suppuration never happened. The pain subsided entirely for a while, or was greatly mitigated in a day or two after its commencement; but this cessation was only temporary, for it always recurred and subsided at uncertain periods, until the vision with the injured eye was entirely destroyed, the eyeball in a state of painful chronic inflammation, and the health of the patients much injured by the irritation occasioned by the injury, and from anxiety for their sight; for the vision of the other eye became affected at this stage of the disease, by the inflammation extending to it by sympathy. The first indications of its commencement there, were a slight redness of the conjunctiva, and an inability to see so well as formerly with the eye, or to bear the ordinary light of a room without pain and confusion of vision.

In case I. the effects of the sympathetic inflammation were, a dull yellow colour of the sclerotica, a change in the colour of the iris, and adhesion of it to the capsule of the lens; and a very irregular and small pupil, filled with a dot of opaque capsule.

The fragments of caps taken from the eye, after being within it for months, were only tarnished; they bore no appearances of undergoing changes similar to those which take place in pieces of steel during their exposure to the humours of the eye; they were always of a considerable size, and their angles were sharp. Mr. Barton believes that the sympathetic inflammation in these cases is occasioned by the presence of a fragment of cap in the other eye, and that the only means of preventing it, or of allaying it when it has arisen, is the removal of that fragment from the eye. He has treated many cases on this principle; of seven of which I have preserved the following notes.

CASE I.—W. —, Esq., about forty years of age, and of very intemperate habits, was shooting on the moors in August, 1832, when, on discharging his gun, something cut his right eye. He lived far from Manchester, and was under the care of his usual medical attendant, who used active measures to subdue the pain and inflammation which occurred in a few days after the accident. He consulted Mr. Barton, for the first time, on the 29th October, 1833, when he had continued pain in his right eye, occasionally so severe as to prevent him sleeping for successive nights; his vision with it was destroyed; the left eye also was inflamed sympathetically, and vision with it so much impaired that he could not find his way. His health had suffered greatly from the effects of the disease, and his anxiety for the recovery of his sight. Mr. Barton told him that it was very probable that something had entered the eye and occasioned his sufferings; but, in compliance with the request of the patient, who was unwilling to submit to an operation for its removal, various plans of medical treatment were tried until the 3d of November, without the least benefit being derived from them. On this day a large piece of the cornea of the left eye was cut away, in order to remove the foreign body; but the eye was so exquisitely sensitive, that attempts were not made to find it. A large poultice was applied to the lids. In a few days afterwards a large fragment of a percussion cap was removed from the coagulum, which filled up the opening that had been made in the globe of the eye; it was merely tarnished, and its angles and margins were as sharp as if it had been just broken. The patient was permanently relieved, but the sympathetic inflammation had produced so great changes in the other eye, that it was necessary to perform an operation for artificial pupil upon it.

CASE 2.—George Ankers, of Staly-Bridge, about 28 years of age, on the 29th January was sitting near a man who discharged a gun, when a portion of cap entered his right eye. On the following day he could see across a room with that eye, but in the course of a month vision with it was quite lost. On the 8th April, the conjunctiva was very vascular, and the eye occasionally very painful. He could not bear the ordinary light of a room without placing his hand over the other eye (the left), neither could he read more than one, two, or three lines with it, before the letters became indistinct, and the eye painful. A flap of the cornea of the right eye was removed, and a poultice was applied to the eyelids. On the 16th of June, a friend removed the fragment of cap from the cicatrix in the front of the eye-ball. He has been easy since, and the powers of the other eye are quite restored.

CASE 3.—Master R., of Stockport, about six years of age, was playing, on the 25th of July, 1836, with a boy who was exploding percussion caps with a hammer, when a fragment of one cut his eye. This eye was so free from pain and inflammation for several weeks, that it was hoped that the cap had not entered it; but by the 21st of September it had assumed the appearances indicative of its presence there. A portion of the front of the eye-ball was cut away. On the following morning the fragment of cap was found in the poultice which had been applied to the eye-lids; it had only become of a darker colour by being in the eye.

The following cases were treated as the above:—

CASE 4.—W. Williamson, of Stockport, injured in shooting.

CASE 5.—Adam Chamley, of Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire, injured in shooting.

CASE 6.—Mr. T., of Cumberland, injured in shooting.

CASE 7.—John Taylor, of Manchester, injured whilst standing near a man exploding a percussion cap with a hammer.

The details of the four last cases are so like those of the three first, that it seems unnecessary to give them. In all, however, the object of the operation was gained; the sympathetic inflammation being suspended in the first case, and the symptoms which were thought to indicate its approach being removed in the others. The operation is thus performed:—The patient being placed in a convenient position, the operator forms, by means of Beer's knife, a large flap of the cornea, which he seizes with the forceps and cuts away with a pair of curved scissors. A dose of laudanum is then administered to the patient, and a linseed-meal poultice applied to his eye-lids. The operation always gives great pain, and should be performed as rapidly as possible. The eye is so exceedingly sensitive, that attempts to find the fragment of cap cannot be endured. In all the cases of Mr. Barton, the cap was found in the poultice, or in the coagulum which closed the opening into the eye, in a day or two, or at a longer period after the operation.

I have made diligent inquiries as to whether the caps which inflicted the injury were grooved or smooth. I believe that they were generally smooth and of an inferior kind, called French caps; but it is very likely that both kinds are very dangerous when exploded between two flat surfaces on a level with the eye; an amusement with children which is very common in this part of the kingdom. *London Medical Gazette*, Oct. 28, 1837.

39. *Iris Sympathetica.* By MR. MACKENZIE, (extracted from a clinical lecture.)

1. The injuries which, affecting one eye, are most apt to excite, after some time, sympathetic inflammation in the other, are penetrating wounds, inflicted by cutting instruments, or by the forcible projection of splinters of iron or stone, or the fragments of percussion caps. A mere blow on the one eye (for example, with a stick) has been known to impair the other sympathetically; but in general it is from penetrating wounds that the disease we are now considering takes its rise. Sometimes the wound is inflicted by such an instrument as a chisel or screw-driver, as was the case with Finlay, so that there can be no suspicion of any thing being lodged within the eye; while, in other instances, the suspicion is strong, or there is an absolute certainty, that a foreign body has passed through

the tunica, and lies there unextracted. Sympathetic iritis has been known to occur both where the foreign body has been extracted immediately after the receipt of the injury, and where it has lain for weeks within the eye.

The injuries we are now speaking of are sudden and violent. They are generally attended by a loss of part of the humours, and by an extravasation of blood into the interior of the eye. The parts divided have generally been the cornea and iris, with a small part of the sclerotica and choroid. The junction, in fact, of the cornea and sclerotica, and consequently the annulus albidus of the choroid, is the place which has been wounded in most of the cases which I have seen. I think sympathetic iritis is more apt to be excited if the wound has been followed by a protrusion of the iris, and such a cicatrice of the cornea and sclerotica as keeps the portion of the iris not involved perpetually on the stretch. If the wound has been so extensive as to divide or lacerate the retina, sympathetic inflammation is probably still more apt to occur, the injury which the lens suffers in such cases, and the traumatic cataract which follows, have little or no influence in causing sympathetic disease. A wound which implicates merely the cornea and lens, or even a wound of the cornea, with simple prolapsus iridis, is not apt to excite sympathetic iritis. I have never known any of the operations for cataract bring on this affection; not even when, after that of extraction, the iris protruded, and the cicatrice which followed caused dragging of the opposite side of the iris, have I ever seen sympathetic inflammation. These facts, then, would lead us to conclude that injuries of that part of the choroid called the annulus albidus are most apt to cause sympathetic iritis. If, along with a wound of that part of the choroid, there is a loss of part of the vitreous humour, and a protrusion of the iris, I should dread an attack of sympathetic inflammation; especially if, about the time of the cicatrization of the wound, the patient began to use the good eye in earnest, committed any irregularity in diet, over fatigued himself, or suffered from mental excitement or distress.

II.—Were we to judge of the period of time which generally elapses between an injury of one eye and sympathetic inflammation manifesting itself in the other, from the six cases which I related formerly, as having occurred in the practice of this infirmary, we should say that five weeks was the most frequent period; for in Mill, the sympathetic disease came on six weeks after the injury; in Paterson, the period was three months; in Moore, one month; in Downie, five weeks; in Finlay, five weeks; in Gartshore, four or five weeks. In three out of the six cases recorded by Mr. Lawrence, the period is not mentioned; in the other three, the periods were a few weeks, five years, and soon after six weeks. In Mr. Wardrop's two cases the periods were three weeks, and one year.

III.—The subjects of sympathetic iritis have most frequently been, in my experience, men employed in iron-works. At the time when their eyes were injured, their general strength was not impaired, but from their habits of life, and especially from their liberal use of spirits and tobacco, their constitutions were in an artificial state, very unfavourable for throwing off any inflammatory disease. Hence it appeared to be, that the iritis degenerated into the arthritic variety, and proved so intractable. In some of the cases I have seen the sympathetic inflammation was modified by scrofula, a modification scarcely less troublesome than the arthritic. In one of our cases, Dr. Kennedy observed that the wounds made in bleeding the patient at the bend of the arm generally suppurated; which led him to inquire whether a syphilitic taint might not be present. The patient acknowledged having had some primary syphilitic symptoms before he received the injury of his eye; but he had no sore-throat nor eruption, and the eye, sympathetically inflamed, showed no peculiar indications of syphilis.

IV.—It sometimes happens that the patient is unable to specify any exciting causes for the sympathetic attack; but, in other instances, causes of this kind are distinctly mentioned. For example, in Finlay, the exciting cause was manifestly the reading, for three or four hours together, in a book printed in a small type, and in one of Mr. Lawrence's cases, the eye had been incautiously worked. The wounds of the eye, which are apt to give rise to sympathetic

iritis, commonly take from a month to six weeks to cicatrize. Whenever they are healed, the patients are apt to re-commence their usual employments and modes of life; and then it is that the exciting causes of the sympathetic disease come into play. The same sort of exciting causes which produce the first attack of sympathetic inflammation, also bring on relapses when the patient is recovering; and it is generally by a succession of relapses that vision is ultimately destroyed.

V.—The local symptoms of sympathetic ophthalmia are those of iritis, passing rapidly into amaurosis and atrophy of the eye. Not unfrequently the first symptom is dimness of sight. This is rapidly followed by zonal redness around the cornea, dingy greenness of the iris, flexibility of the cornea, boggy of the sclerotica, opacity of the capsule, greenishness of the lens, varicosity of the rectal vessels, the presence of red vessels ramifying over the surface of the iris, contraction and adhesion of the pupil, puckering and bolstering forwards of the iris, and total insensibility of the retina. The pain is very variable; for in some it is slight, as in Gartshore, who said she had had no pain in the eye sympathetically affected, while in others it is severe, as in Finlay. Photopsia is a usual symptom about the commencement of the attack. In some there is great intolerance of light, as in Paterson; in others, there is little. At length, the shrinking of the eye-ball, and especially of the cornea, is very remarkable. In one of Mr. Lawrence's cases, both cornea had shrunk to the size and figure of a barleycorn placed horizontally.

There can be no doubt that retinitis forms a part, and a chief part, in all cases of sympathetic ophthalmia. Perhaps retinitis occurs first, and added to it is the iritis. The early loss of vision shows that the retina is deeply implicated from the very commencement. The flexibility of the cornea, and softness of the sclerotica, indicate the vitreous fluid to be lessened in quantity. The changes which are visible in the capsule and in the iris are plain indications how far these textures are affected.

Sympathetic iritis is generally an inflammation of that description which is called *unhealthy*. It sometimes resembles scrofulous internal ophthalmia; more frequently it resembles what the Germans call arthritic ophthalmia. The symptoms are often such, that one skilled in German ophthalmology would at once say, here is arthritic iritis. I have often observed to you, that if we use the term *arthritic* merely as a conventional one, to express a certain variety of eye disease, characterized by certain signs, this may be allowed; but if by arthritic is meant strictly *gouty*, applied to the cases we are now considering the term is incorrect. The subjects of sympathetic iritis may have some peculiarity of constitution, produced by their mode of life, and by the nature of the ingesta to which they have habituated themselves; but these are not sufficient grounds, I think, to suppose that they are labouring under the gouty diathesis. It is more probable that the particular textures of the eye which are affected, and the modes in which these textures are suffering, produce the peculiar symptoms which present themselves so strikingly in such cases, and which the Germans choose to call arthritic.

Amongst the constitutional symptoms we may mention quickness of the pulse, thirst, a marked buffy coat on the blood drawn from a vein, a pallid complexion, and obstinate constipation. A degree of ill health, in fact, has generally resulted from the confinement, want of exercise, and medical treatment necessary for the cure of the original accident; and in this debilitated state the patient is attacked by the sympathetic disease.

VI. The fact, that disease in one eye is apt to be followed by similar disease in the other, has long attracted attention. Inflammation, cataract, and amaurosis, have especially been observed to occur in this way, from what is termed a *consensus oculorum*.

Mary Young (No. 8266), who is at present attending as an out-patient, presents a curious instance of inflammation passing from one eye to the other. Several years ago she was affected with trichiasis, xeroma of the palpebral conjunctiva, and thickening and opacity of the left cornea. At that time the right

eye was perfectly well; but within these few months we have the same set of symptoms in the right eye, only in a less degree, which we had formerly in the left. The corresponding eyelashes are inverted, the corresponding part of the conjunctiva has become dry, and the corresponding portion of the cornea is opaque.

Jess Gemmel (No. 6234), and John M'Brair (No. 8561), two patients at present on our list, afford instances of sympathetic amaurosis, and oscillation of the eye-ball. In Gemmel the left eye was destroyed by a blow and eight days after the right eye was found affected with oscillation, and a great degree of dimness of sight, but without inflammation. We know less of M'Brair's history, as the injury which destroyed the sight of his left eye, and produced almost a complete absorption of the iris, occurred in childhood; but in him we have another example of sympathetic oscillation and amaurosis.

Dr. Albers (Himley and Schmidt's *Ophthalmologische Bibliothek*, ii. Band, iii. Stück, p. 169,) relates the case of a countryman, who, in a scuffle with his brother, was struck with a pitchfork in the right eye, whereby the cornea and iris were seriously injured. The wound healed up in such a way that the sight was not entirely lost. In three days after the injury, the patient observed a diminution in the vision of the left eye, and a distinct opacity in the pupil was discernible. This increased so rapidly, that in eight days there were all the signs of a fully formed cataract. Half a year afterwards he was operated on by Professor Jung, of Marburgh, but unsuccessfully, the patient remaining completely blind. Albers asks, if this case does not go to prove a decussation of the optic nerves; to which Himley replies in the negative. For suppose (says he) that the cataract, the sudden formation of which is very remarkable, was really a consequence of the injury, and not only so, but that the injury was the sole cause of the cataract, and did not operate merely in exciting a tendency already existing to opacity, we find similar appearances of *consensus* frequently in the corresponding teeth of the two sides, where no such decussation or nervous communication can be brought forward in explanation.

Notwithstanding this objection of Himley, it is generally acknowledged that those organs of the body are most apt to affect others, or in their turn to be affected sympathetically, in which the nervous system is the most developed; that there are no organs between which a sympathy in different states of disease exists so remarkably as the two eyes; and that there are no organs in which the nervous system is more developed, none in which the nerves of the opposite sides are connected in the same intimate way.

In the cases which we have been particularly considering, it is not improbable that the blood-vessels on the side of the injured eye, being in the state of fulness and inordinate action which attends inflammation, communicate to those of the opposite side, with which they have connections within the cranium, a disposition to the same morbid state in which they themselves are. The ciliary nerves, also, of the injured eye may be the means of conveying into the third and fifth nerves an irritation, which may be reflected from the brain to the same nerves on the opposite side. I think, however, that the chief medium through which sympathetic ophthalmia is excited, is the union of the optic nerves. The researches of modern anatomists have tended only to confirm the conjectures of Newton (*Opticks*, query 15,) that the optic nerve of the one eye proceeding backwards, and meeting the optic nerve of the other eye, the two mingle their fibres, and partially decussate. It is extremely probable that the retina of the injured eye is in a state of inflammation, which is propagated along the corresponding optic nerve to the chiasma, and that thence the inflammatory action is reflected to the retina of the opposite eye, along its optic nerve.

VII. The history of the case will, in general, be sufficient to prevent any difficulty in the diagnosis. Sympathetic ophthalmia may be complicated with scrofula, and assume a good deal of the scrofulous character; or it may be complicated with syphilis, which an examination of the patient's skin and throat, and an inquiry into his previous health, will serve to elucidate. These compli-

cations, as well as the arthritic, will no doubt render the symptoms more severe; but they will scarcely influence the line of treatment to be followed.

VIII. The prognosis is so unfavourable, that it is our duty to guard the patient who has suffered an injury of one eye, against the exciting causes of sympathetic iritis, from the very first. When this disease is actually present, even the most active treatment is generally ineffectual. Indeed, I have never seen an eye recover from sympathetic iritis. Renewed attacks have, in every case, terminated in extinguishing vision. Mill is the only exception; but in him we cannot calculate yet on the final result. Any of the exciting causes I have enumerated would again rouse in him an inflammation, which all our applications might fail to check.

IX. Rest, antiphlogistic means, and the use of mercury, are the principal points of the treatment in sympathetic ophthalmia. These means, we have abundant proof, are not very successful. Still, to relinquish these remedies would be wrong.

There is a disease, Mr. Wardrop informs us, frequent in the eye of the horse, having the appearance of a specific inflammation, which usually first affects one eye and then the other, and almost always sooner or later destroys vision. It is known among some farriers, that, if the eye first affected with this disease suppurates and sinks in the orbit, the disease does not attack the other eye, or subsides, if it had commenced in it. Thus they have adopted a practice of destroying altogether the diseased eye, in order to save the other; which is rudely done by putting lime between the eyelids, or thrusting a nail into the cavity of the eyeball, so as to excite violent inflammation and suppuration. Mr. Wardrop has frequently succeeded in saving one eye of the horse by adopting this practice; but he destroyed the eye by making an incision in the cornea, and discharging through it the lens and vitreous humour. "In some diseases of the human eye," says he, "where the disease makes a similar progress, first affecting one eye and then the other with complete blindness the practice so successful in animals might, by judicious discrimination, be beneficially adopted."—(*Morbid Anatomy of the Human Eye*, vol. ii. p. 139.)

The practice thus hinted at by Mr. Wardrop has actually been adopted, though with a somewhat different view, by Mr. Barton of Manchester, in cases of injury of one eye with the fragment of a percussion-cap.*

In the cases published by Mr. Crompton this practice appears to have not only relieved the patients of the pain they were suffering in the injured eye, but to have arrested the sympathetic inflammation which threatened the other. Is not this, then, good ground to adopt a similar plan, not only in cases where we have reason to suppose that some foreign body is lodged within the eye, but even in other cases, where the one eye being disorganized, and deprived of sight, the vision of the other eye seems likely to be lost by sympathetic inflammation? Where there is a suspicion of some foreign body being within the injured eye, there can be no question that Mr. Barton's practice ought to be adopted; but even in other cases, why should we hesitate to lay open an eye in which vision is extinguished, if the operation affords as I think it does, a hope of our being thereby able to save the other.—*Lond. Med. Gaz.* Oct. 1838.

MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE AND TOXICOLOGY.

40. *Child at Birth of Enormous Size.*—The average weight of a child at birth is usually considered to be from seven to eight pounds. Dr. Dewees met with two cases in which the weight was fifteen pounds (*System of Midw.*); and Dr. Francis says that an instance occurred in New York, where the fœtus (born dead) weighed sixteen pounds and a half. (*New York Med. & Phys. Journ.* II. p. 20. 1823.) An example of a still greater weight in a newborn child is related

* See preceding article. Ed.

in a recent number of the *Lancet* (29d Dec. 1839) by Mr. J. D. OWENS. The child was born dead after a labour of sixteen hours' duration. Its weight and admeasurement are given as follows:—"The long diameter from the occiput to the root of the nose, $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches; the occipito and mental, $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches; from the parietal protuberances, 5 inches; the circumference of the skull, $15\frac{1}{2}$ inches; the circumference of the thorax over the xyphoid cartilage, $14\frac{1}{2}$ inches; the breadth of the shoulders, $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches; the extreme length, 24 inches. The weight *seventeen pounds twelve ounces*. We supposed that this was the largest fœtus on record; but on referring to Dr. Beck's learned work on Med. Jurisprudence, sixth edition, p. 276, we find that he quotes Cranzius as saying that "he had seen one fœtus weighing twenty-three, and another twenty-seven pounds!"

41. *On the manner in which death is produced by Carbonic Acid Gas.*—Dr. GOLDING BIRD, communicated to the Physical Society of Guy's Hospital, at their meeting, 23d February, 1839, some interesting views relative to the pathology of death from charcoal vapour, illustrated by experiments.* He stated that he did not wish to enter at length into the question of the mode in which carbonic acid produces death—whether, as supposed by Brodie, Bichat, Nysten, &c., by excluding oxygen, or, as believed by Christison, Collard, Pyl, &c., by acting as a specific poison—as this would occupy too much of the society's time; but, from all the investigations he had made, he was led to agree in every respect with M. Collard de Martigny in believing that carbonic acid, when sufficiently diluted to enter the air-passages, acts as a specific poison, and produces its fatal effects, notwithstanding that sufficient oxygen may be present in the air of the apartment to support animal life *per se*—a statement fully borne out by the very frequent occurrence of florid blood in the hearts, lungs, and brains of persons who have died from inhaling an atmosphere vitiated by carbonic acid gas. This fact, although somewhat opposed to the orthodox and popular opinions as given in most of our works on toxicology, is, nevertheless, fully supported by the cases which have been published in the continental and British journals. The arguments in favour of this view of the specific action of carbonic acid adduced by Dr. Bird, were unfortunately too extended to be comprised in our limited space: this we regret the less, as we understand the matter will be fully treated of in the next number of Guy's Hospital Reports.

From a review of cases of death resulting from the inhalation of air contaminated by the presence of carbonic acid, we are compelled to modify the opinion imbibed from the perusal of most toxicological works; for it is no less certain than true that the great majority of the pathological appearances attributed to death by the inhalation of charcoal vapour, are as frequently absent as present. The reason of the diversity observed in the post-mortem appearances of persons killed by apparently one and the same cause, and under circumstances apparently in every way identical, is at present involved in obscurity; much, probably, may depend upon the degree of vitiation of the air of the room; more, perhaps, on the age, health, and temperament of the individual exposed.

Dr. Bird's observations lead him to believe that an atmosphere containing 10 per cent. of carbonic acid will quickly produce death; in birds this occurred after they had respired it from seven to ten minutes: and that the presence of 5 per cent. will prove no less certainly fatal, although requiring a longer time for the production of that effect—in birds about half an hour. A bird of the same size as the above lived an hour and a quarter in a vessel containing the same bulk of atmospheric air, and, upon removal from it, revived completely.

It is difficult, from the imperfect manner in which cases are too generally reported, to represent the comparative frequency of the occurrence of particular post-mortem appearances by numbers; but the following numerical statement, drawn from the best reported cases in the German medical journals, including two from private sources, and of late occurrence, would, perhaps, be of service to the medical witness, if it did no more than point out to him the fallacies into

* Since published in Guy's Hospital Reports, for April, 1839.

which he would be likely to be betrayed by trusting to the generally received and popular opinions of the pathological effects which ought to result from the inhalation of carbonic acid:—

<i>External Phenomena.</i>				
A. 14 cases examined	{	Vomiting had preceded death in	- - -	5
	{	Vomiting had not preceded death in	- - -	9
B. 19 cases	{	Face bloated and livid	- - -	6
	{	— pale and natural	- - -	6
C. 11 cases	{	Froth before mouth and nostrils	- - -	5
	{	— absent	- - -	6
D. 6 cases	{	Eyes injected	- - -	2
	{	— natural	- - -	4
E. 7 cases	{	Limbs remarkably rigid	- - -	5
	{	— flexible	- - -	2
F. 14 cases	{	Abdomen tumid	- - -	11
	{	— distended	- - -	3

<i>Internal Phenomena.—Head.</i>				
18 cases	{	Serous effusion in ventricles and under arachnoid	- - -	15
	{	— absent	- - -	3
18 cases	{	Extravasation of blood	- - -	3
	{	— none	- - -	15
7 cases	{	Blood black in the brain	- - -	3
	{	— florid	- - -	4
18 cases	{	Membranes turgid with blood	- - -	14
	{	— natural	- - -	4

<i>Chest.</i>				
7 cases	{	Mucous membrane of larynx and pharynx injected	- - -	4
	{	— healthy	- - -	3
13 cases	{	Lungs distended	- - -	6
	{	— collapsed	- - -	7
13 cases	{	— black or deep violet	- - -	5
	{	— red or pale	- - -	8
18 cases	{	Blood only in right ventricle of right	- - -	7
	{	— left	- - -	1
	{	— in both ventricles	- - -	8
	{	— in neither	- - -	2
7 cases	{	— in heart black	- - -	5
	{	— florid	- - -	2
10 cases	{	— coagulated	- - -	6
	{	— fluid	- - -	4

The only phenomena to which he had found, as yet, no exceptions are—

A. The presence of livid spots over the whole body; often, however, not more intense than occur from other causes.

B. Tongue exerted and generally grasped between the teeth, unless vomiting has preceded death, when the tongue is found concealed by the teeth.

C. Intensely calm and sleep-like aspect of the corpse, whether pale or bloated.

D. Congestion of the cerebral vessels amounting to apoplexy, often attended by copious serous effusion into the ventricles, under the arachnoid, or at the base.

In conclusion, he offered the following conclusions as fairly deducible from the result of these investigations:—

1. That carbonic acid sufficiently diluted, as in charcoal vapour, does not act fatally by closing the glottis nor by excluding oxygen, but by a specifically poisonous action.

2. That carbonic acid thus diluted may produce death, although a proportion of oxygen, sufficient *per se* to support life, may be present in the air of the apartment; and on this account no dependence can be placed on the florid colour of the blood in the lungs, as evidence against carbonic acid gas having been the cause of death.

3. That such a vitiated atmosphere acts most probably primarily on the nervous system; and secondarily, but by no means essentially or necessarily, upon the circulating fluid.

4. That the death of persons inhaling an atmosphere vitiated by carbonic acid is produced by apoplexy.

5. That no dependence can be placed upon the bloated and red, or pale and contracted features; on the liquidity or coagulated state of the blood; on the injection or paleness of the mucous membrane of the air-passages or intestinal tube, as positive evidence for or against the action of carbonic acid gas as a cause of death, in medico-legal investigations.

MIDWIFERY.

42. *Cartilaginous condition of the Neck of the Uterus—Incision of this part to facilitate delivery.*—Dr. BURDACH of Finsterwalde, was called June 27th, to a woman twenty-eight years of age, pregnant with her first child, and who had been attacked three days previously (June 24th,) with labour pains; the membranes had broken during that day. The midwife could not reach the neck of the uterus, and although the pains continued, the labour had not advanced by the 26th. Borax was then given in doses of six grains to increase uterine contractions, but though the medicine produced this effect, labour was not advanced. Dr. B. found the anterior lip of the neck of the uterus hard and callous. He prescribed emollient fumigations and an opiate ointment, which were continued until the next day (June 28) without any advantage. He then made an incision an inch and a half long in the anterior lip; but little blood flowed. Borax eight grains with one grain of musk to increase uterine efforts was given in repeated doses. But labour advanced so slowly that the forceps were resorted to and a dead infant delivered. The incision was not torn, the wound healed promptly and the patient entirely recovered.—*Revue Méd.* Dec. 1838, from *Medizinische Zeitung*.

43. *Prolapsus of the Uterus—Incision into the Neck of the Organ—Cure.*—By Dr. GRUHN, of Reppen. A woman twenty-eight years of age, when in the fourth month of pregnancy, in consequence of a violent effort had a prolapsus of the uterus. Gestation nevertheless went on without any accident to full time. When Dr. G. saw her thirty-six hours had elapsed since labour had set in, and twenty-four since the waters had been discharged. The uterus hung between the patients thighs, it was six inches long and eight thick. The vertex of the child presented, and the neck of the uterus was dilated to the size of a two franc piece. Not being able to obtain a greater dilatation, Dr. G., made an incision three inches in length in one side of the neck of the uterus, and a dead but well developed child was extracted. The delivery of the placenta was attended with very profuse hæmorrhage, which was arrested by injections of cold water. Afterwards the uterus was reduced and every thing went on well. The woman recovered and notwithstanding the advice of Dr. G., refused to wear a pessary.—*Ibid.*

MEDICAL STATISTICS.

44. *Statistics of Patients Affected with Calculus, admitted into the Hospital of St. Mary at Moscow.*—Dr. DE ROOS, of St. Petersburg, states that during the 28 years, from 1808 to 1836, 1411 patients affected with urinary calculus were admitted into the Hospital of St. Mary at Moscow. During the 7 years, from 1830 to 1836 inclusive, 469 calculous patients were admitted, of whom 411 were operated on, and 369 of them cured; 41 left the Hospital uncured, 23 died within the first week after the operation, 19 died after the operation in consequence of other diseases, and 17 died without being operated on.

The following table shows the ages of the patients, and results of the cases, admitted during the 7 years from 1830 to 1836 inclusive:

AGE.	Number of Patients.	Cured by Lithotomy.	Discharged, not Operated on.	Died with- in a week from the Operation.	Died, within a month or longer after the operation, from other diseases.	Died with- out being operated on.
2 years.	28	18	5	1	2	2
3 years.	51	41	8	1	1	0
4 years.	54	48	2	1	1	1
5 years.	38	33	1	2	1	1
6 years.	39	35	3	1	0	0
7 years.	38	31	3	2	2	0
8 years.	35	32	2	1	0	0
9 years.	22	20	1	0	1	0
10 years.	21	18	1	1	0	1
11 years.	13	7	1	3	0	2
12 years.	18	14	1	2	0	1
13 years.	10	7	0	3	0	0
14 years.	15	12	2	0	1	0
15 years.	10	7	0	0	3	0
16 years.	9	7	0	0	1	1
17 years.	10	8	1	0	1	0
18 years.	5	4	0	1	0	0
19 years.	4	2	1	0	0	1
20 years.	8	5	1	1	0	1
21 years.	3	2	0	1	0	0
22 years.	6	4	0	1	0	1
23 years.	7	1	3	0	2	1
24 years.	2	1	1	0	0	0
25 years.	2	1	1	0	0	0
27 years.	4	2	0	0	2	0
30 years.	1	1	0	0	0	0
31 years.	1	1	0	0	0	0
33 years.	2	1	1	0	0	0
34 years.	2	0	0	1	0	1
35 years.	2	1	0	0	0	1
36 years.	1	1	0	0	0	0
38 years.	1	1	0	0	0	0
39 years.	1	0	1	0	0	0
40 years.	2	0	0	0	0	2
45 years.	1	1	0	0	0	0
53 years.	1	1	0	0	0	0
55 years.	1	1	0	0	0	0
61 years.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Total,	469	369	41	23	19	17

Gaz. Méd. de Paris, December 2d, 1838, from *Medicinisches Correspondenz-Blatt*.

45. *Prussian Bills of Mortality.*—Results gleaned from the Register of Births, Marriages, and Bills of Mortality in the Prussian dominions, during the year 1836. Officially reported by the Government.* From the Statistical Journal and Record of Useful knowledge, for November, 1837: London.

In the twenty-five government districts of the Prussian States, the amount of births and deaths during the year 1836 was, births 550,622, deaths 375,589; increase through the surplus of births 175,034. The total number of inhabitants in the Prussian dominions, exclusive of the principality of Neufchatel, was, at the end of 1836, 13,837,233.

Throughout the report, the number of 100,000 persons is taken as the basis of the calculations. In the year 1835, the births exceeded the deaths, 1127 in 100,000; in 1836, the excess was 1296; in the two years the excess amounts to 2423, or nearly 2 and 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.

Since 1836, the ratio of mortality to the population has increased, notwithstanding which, the natural increase of population is such, that, should there be no variation, it will be doubled in about 58 years.

The following estimate, made on an average population of 100,000 souls, shows the relative numbers of the births and deaths, together with the surplus of the former.

In the Government Districts of	Births.	Deaths.	Surplus.
Coslin - - - - -	4136	2048	2088
Stettin - - - - -	4146	2277	1869
Marienwerder - - - - -	4681	2865	1816
Bromberg - - - - -	4574	2785	1789
Frankfort - - - - -	3877	2315	1562
Dantzic - - - - -	4255	2702	1553
Stralsund - - - - -	3877	2340	1537
Posen - - - - -	4117	2679	1338
Potsdam - - - - -	3963	2542	1421
Mersburg - - - - -	4018	2634	1384
Dusseldorf - - - - -	4036	2655	1381
Minden - - - - -	4398	3025	1373
Treves - - - - -	3855	2508	1347
Arnsberg - - - - -	3953	2708	1245
Magdeburg - - - - -	3784	2557	1227
Coblenz - - - - -	3949	2739	1210
Erfort - - - - -	3894	2706	1188
Koningsberg - - - - -	4071	2957	1114
Cologne - - - - -	4073	2962	1111
Oppeln - - - - -	4810	3761	1049
Breslaw - - - - -	4818	3070	1048
Aix-la-Chapelle - - - - -	3726	2697	1029
Gumbinnen - - - - -	4141	3127	1014
Lignitz - - - - -	3930	3149	781
Munster - - - - -	3169	2471	698
In the Prussian dominions generally	4076	2780	1296

From the above statement it appears that the births exceeded the deaths in all the districts, which are ranged so as to show the greatest amounts first and the smallest last. In Munster, the surplus of births is little more than a third of the amount in Coslin. Munster had by far the smallest proportion of births, namely, only 1 between 31 and 32 inhabitants. As the mortality is only 1 in between 40 and 41 inhabitants, which is under the average for the whole country, the small surplus of births is entirely owing to a deficiency of these and not, as,

* For a statistical view of the births and deaths in the Prussian States, in the 15 years from 1820 to 1834, see No. XLII of this Journal, (Feb. 1838), page 447.

might be supposed, to an increased mortality. This fact being regularly observable every year, shows that it must depend upon some circumstances peculiar to the district.

Of all the government districts of Prussia, Coslin presents the smallest amount of mortality, viz: not quite $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., or 1 to nearly 49 inhabitants. This chiefly explains the reason why the surplus of its births is so great, since it exhibits by no means a very large proportion of births, which only amount to 1 in rather more than 24 inhabitants.

From a comparison of the districts of Coslin and Munster, with reference to the ages of persons who died in those places in 1836, it would appear, that the proportion of deaths in 100,000 inhabitants was as follows:

	Coslin.	Munster.
Children under the age of 1 year, including those who were still-born, - - - - -	596	501
Children from the commencement of the 2d year to the completion of the 14th year of their age, - - -	338	512
Adults from the commencement of the 15th to the completion of their 70th year. - - - - -	840	1062
Above 70 years of age, - - - - -	274	396
All ages added together, - - - - -	2048	2471

From the above statement it would appear, that the proportional mortality of infants under one year is rather greater in Coslin than in Munster; but in the period embraced between the completion of the 1st and 14th years, a striking disparity exists, the amount of mortality in Munster being almost a third more than that of Coslin. In the active period of life, viz: from the age of 15 to 70, the deaths in Coslin are only 840, and in Munster 1062, in a population of 100,000. But, in the former place, there were comparatively fewer individuals of the ages between 15 and 70, than in Munster; because, owing to the rapid progress of population, there were more children to an equal number of inhabitants, and, consequently, the mortality in these two districts differs far less in the active period of life than in childhood. It is the same with respect to that part of the population above 70 years of age. Among an equal number of inhabitants there must be more above the age of 70 in Munster than in Coslin; but then there are also more deaths among persons of that age in Munster. Hence it may be inferred, that circumstances are peculiarly unfavourable to youth in Munster.

Next to Coslin, the districts of Stettin, Marienwerder, and Bromberg, presented, in 1836, the greatest surplus of births. In comparing the district of Oppeln with Coslin, we find that the proportional mortality of children under 1 year is much greater in the former, amounting to nearly a fifth of the whole mortality, whilst in Coslin it is only about one-sixth. But the most striking difference exists among children from the beginning of the 2d year to the end of the 14th, there dying in Oppeln nearly three times as many as in Coslin. The great mortality in Oppeln is not altogether owing to the prevalence of ordinary epidemics, the ravages of which are usually confined to particular years, but is to be ascribed to the annual recurrence of diseases dependent upon permanent circumstances. Even in the active or business period of life, between 15 and 70 years of age, the mortality of Oppeln is found to be considerably greater than that of Coslin, in the proportion of 7 to 4. The mortality falls heaviest upon the younger part of the class, for, late in life, the deaths are so much diminished, that, though the number who died above 70 in Oppeln is proportionably greater than in Coslin, yet the relative proportion, on the same number of inhabitants, is only 5 in Oppeln and 4 in Coslin.

The number of marriages contracted in 1836 throughout the Prussian States was 125,391, being in the ratio of 928 new marriages on an average of 100,000 inhabitants, or about 1 marriage to about 107 persons. In particular districts,

the ratio of marriages to the population varies considerably. Thus, in Oppeln, which shows the greatest proportion, there were 1075 to 100,000 persons, whilst, in Treves, which has the least proportion, the same number of inhabitants give only 790.

The number of marriages contracted is considerably influenced by accidental circumstances; the proportion has, however, been progressively increasing of late years, as shown in the following statement:

In the Year	New Marriages.
1820 - - - - -	109,625
1821 - - - - -	106,000
1822 - - - - -	106,160
1823 - - - - -	102,247
1824 - - - - -	107,472
1825 - - - - -	112,171
1826 - - - - -	111,999
1827 - - - - -	106,270
1828 - - - - -	104,788
1829 - - - - -	108,627
1830 - - - - -	110,534
1831 - - - - -	98,673
1832 - - - - -	127,217
1833 - - - - -	130,540
1834 - - - - -	129,494
1835 - - - - -	123,953
1836 - - - - -	125,391

Although the population during the years enumerated has increased with a pretty regular progression, the number of marriages between 1820 and 1830 fluctuated between 102,247 and 112,171. The alarm occasioned by the cholera in the interior and eastern parts of Prussia in 1831, diminished the number of marriages to 98,673. Since then, however, the number has increased so as to range between 123,953 and 130,540. The cause of the first increase in 1832, may probably be assigned to the celebration of those marriages which had been agreed upon previously to the breaking out of the cholera, and deferred during its prevalence. But this cause does not account for the continued increase of marriages during the subsequent years, at a greater rate than the proportional increase of population.

The number of children born in wedlock, in the course of 1836, was:—

Boys - - - - -	263,960
Girls - - - - -	248,500
Together - - - - -	512,460

Out of wedlock:—

Boys - - - - -	19,540
Girls - - - - -	18,622
Together - - - - -	38,162
Total - - - - -	220,622

Accordingly, of 100,000 children, 6931 were illegitimate; and, therefore, less than $\frac{1}{15}$ but more than $\frac{1}{16}$ of the children born were illegitimate; or, to be more accurate, of all the children born $\frac{1}{15.7}$ were illegitimate.

These, also, have been the usual proportions for several years past in the Prussian dominions.

The places furnishing the smallest proportion of illegitimate births are situated in Westphalia and the Rhenish Province. In these districts, the proportion

varies from 224 to 94 in the 100,000. In the four districts of Marienwerder, Bromberg, Posen, and Oppeln, which are, to a great extent, inhabited by descendants of the Slavonic race, the illegitimate births vary from 265 to 218 on every 100,000. Coslin and Gumbinnen furnish respectively 275 and 278 illegitimate births to the 100,000. In the above named districts, the moral habits of the great mass of the people produce the most decided effect; for, as to other circumstances which might exert an important influence, such as descent, religion, legislation, manufactures, density of population, and the concentration of inhabitants in great towns, there is much variation in those districts, without affording ground for drawing any precise inference on the subject. In the small district of Erfurt, which, owing to the irregular position of its territory, varies so much in its manufacturing and moral relations, the average number of illegitimate births is, incidentally, just the amount of the average for the whole of Prussia, namely, 282 for every 100,000 inhabitants, or rather less than 1 in 13 of the whole number of births. In the ten districts, also, where the average number is exceeded, no particular circumstance can be referred to as explanatory of the cause.

In the great towns of Prussia, the proportion of the illegitimate children born during 1836, to the number of inhabitants, was as follows on every 100,000:—

Towns.	Illegitimate Children.
Breslaw - - - - -	65
Konigsberg - - - - -	61
Berlin - - - - -	60
Posen - - - - -	60
Dantzic - - - - -	52
Cologne, with Deutz - - - - -	49
Stettin - - - - -	43
Magdeburg - - - - -	38
Aix-la-Chapelle - - - - -	25
Elberfeld, with Barmen - - - - -	16

Here, again, is displayed a remarkably small number of illegitimate children born in the province of the Rhine; but it may be still more difficult to explain why, under relations so different, Berlin and Posen have an equal number of illegitimate births; and, on the contrary, why, under similar relations, the numbers should be so different in Konigsberg and Stettin.

It is ascertained, by experience, that in a great part of Europe the number of males, in comparison with females, does not bear the same proportion among illegitimate children as among those born in wedlock. In the fifteen years from 1820 to 1834, on an average, for 10,000 females, the males were—born in wedlock, 10,597—the illegitimate, only 10,310: the surplus of boys, therefore, in the first case, amounted to nearly 6, and in the second case to only $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. In the single year, 1836, the difference was less; for instance, in that year there were, for 10,000 female children, 10,622 males born in wedlock, and 10,494 illegitimate. Whether the difference between the one surplus and the other be merely an accidental fluctuation or a permanent change, we are not at present able to determine.

G. E.

AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE.

On the Value of the Catoptric examination of the Eye as a means of Diagnosis. By I. HAYS, M. D.—Since the publication of the preceding No. of this Journal we have met with several cases which strikingly illustrate the value of the catoptric examination of the eye as a means of diagnosis. One of these we will relate.

Mr. T. a farmer, *ætat.* thirty, whilst employed last November, in feeding a threshing machine, was struck in the left eye by a grain of wheat projected from the machine, which made a small wound in the cornea near its nasal margin. Severe inflammation followed, with loss of vision, for which he was judiciously subjected by Dr. T. A. Worrall of Lewistown, Penna., to a strict antiphlogistic treatment followed by an alterative course of mercury, &c. Some time after the inflammation had been subdued Mr. T. found that his vision with the left eye began to return, and it continued to improve until he was able to distinguish large objects, to count the number of fingers held before his eye, &c., but he could not read even large type. Being desirous of recovering his sight entirely he came to the city to consult us.

When we first saw him, which was six months after the injury, the eye was entirely free from inflammation, and the only abnormal appearance we could detect by the ordinary method of examination was a small cicatrix near the nasal margin of the cornea to which a minute portion of the margin of the iris was adherent, and the pupil consequently was slightly irregular. This was not, however, sufficient to account for his imperfect vision; and we were inclined to attribute the defect to some injury of the internal tissues of the eye, probably involving the retina, from the inflammation which had followed the injury.

Rather as a matter of curiosity than with any expectation of detecting the cause of the defective power of the eye we determined to examine this organ catoptrically. A solution of belladonna was dropped in it, and when the pupil was partially dilated a lighted candle was held before it, when to our surprise the only image we could perceive, though the pupil was perfectly clear, was the first upright one; indicating that the other reflecting surfaces were absent. (See preceding No. of this Journal, p. 255.) In a short time the pupil became fully dilated, and there was then visible a very small opaque substance just behind the upper and outer edge of the iris. This was a portion of opaque capsule. We did not then hesitate to state to the patient that the lens of his eye must have been dislocated by the blow from the grain of wheat, and been subsequently absorbed; that he was in the condition of a person who had been operated on for cataract, and required only a proper lens on the outside of his eye to enable him to see. I accordingly accompanied him to Mr. M'Allister's, in Chesnut street, and having procured a suitable pair of spectacles, he found, to his great delight, and scarcely less to mine, that with them he was able to read, with perfect facility, small print.

Note on Extraction of Foreign Bodies from the Eye. By I. HAYS, M. D.—Since our remarks on this subject (p. 282 of this No.) were printed off, we have had occasion to remove from the eye of a patient a fragment of stone about two lines long and one and a quarter thick, of an irregular shape, somewhat resembling a double pyramid applied base to base. It had penetrated the cornea near its nasal margin, and fallen into the lower part of the anterior chamber. The accident had occurred ten days previously. A small incision was made at the lower part of the cornea with a cataract knife, and the stone grasped with forceps, but from its shape it could not be retained. A second trial having been equally unsuccessful, and not wishing to incur the risk of injuring the delicate tissues of the eye by repeated attempts, I bent an Anel's probe into the shape of a hook, introduced it through the incision and readily extracted with it the piece of stone. This instrument may in some cases be usefully substituted for the forceps, when the foreign body is of such a shape as not to be easily held in the grasp of the latter, and we have written this note to recommend it for that purpose.

Cases of Negro Poisoning. By ALEXANDER SOMERVAIL, M. D. of Essex County, Va.—In May 1800, I became a sufferer from diarrhœa; such as I then thought different from any species of diarrhœa I had heard of. It was accompanied with much griping, and large evacuations of a dun colour, frothy, and of the consistence of molasses. I determined to take some cathartic to carry it off, from a feeling of some irritation acting within. I fortunately took an ounce of cream of tartar, which removed the complaint—it returned and was removed two or three times, until I noticed that it always returned after dining at a certain house, where I was obliged to be. I soon was satisfied it was accomplished by the man-servant at the table; and though taking all care, I could not escape until he was taken sick and confined at his wife's several miles off. I then could eat and drink there with safety. When he returned I was taken again. I then endeavoured to avoid eating there, and gave offence thereby, so that I was obliged to tell why I kept away. As long as I forbore to eat there I was well. In September, I was obliged to be there several days; and before leaving there, I thought I saw him take the opportunity of handing me a cup of tea, to put something in. I examined it attentively, and perceived nothing amiss. I therefore drank it, and soon after took leave; on my way home in about half an hour, I was in great pain; vomited with relief, but diarrhœa followed. Next day, I had to ride twenty miles from home and return, and as I had often restrained the diarrhœa by a few drops of laudanum to allow me to go on, I did so now. When about two miles from home, in returning, and nearly dark, I was obliged to get down, and there to stay for two long hours, and with difficulty reached home. I took my dose at once, was relieved before it operated, and another dose next day removed all uneasiness. The servant was sent away at the end of the year, and I remained free.

In 1814, I had offended our cook; she brought the diarrhœa upon me again; at first, slight, and being aware of her, I got along tolerably till the summer of 1816. I thought she had such things placed by me at table as she knew I would use, or in the bread directed to be given to me, so that I only at the table was affected. Now she became more determined, and I could not prevent it. I was obliged to take cream of tartar almost daily,

and my family entreated I would not take any more, believing I would die if I did; but that was my only help. After taking my dose in her presence, and knowing why I took it, and no person near, I told her if I was obliged to take any more, I should come prepared to kill her, as there was no other chance for me to live; but if she would let me alone I would forgive all; so she let me pass. Soon after, being a hired servant, she became the property of another master who sold her. There was an old negro man whom I saw frequently cure such patients, and recommended him, who heard of my situation, and offered his services to me, but as I was getting well and knowing how powerfully his remedy operated, I refused; he said he would give me a small portion which I took with advantage: this was a decoction of the root of the *Podophyllum Peltatum*, and which I have often used in similar cases with great advantage. When this diarrhœa continues, the pain ceases, and it comes on suddenly without warning, so that it is difficult to get to a suitable place, sometimes impossible. I believe diarrhœa is always brought on by acrid matter generated in the alimentary canal, or taken into it: the method of cure must be to remove the cause and prevent its reproduction. When from acrids taken in this must be prevented, and when done by our slaves it is very difficult. I believe they never miss an opportunity until death is effected, unless it is put out of their power. There is much of it, and by various articles, producing various diseases.

This is the diarrhœa mentioned by Dr. Chapman as occurring at New Orleans, and Richmond in Virginia. After the diarrhœa is checked or removed, other remedies are necessary to restore health; my dependence for that has been the tinct. ferr. mur. I will add to this a case of negro poisoning of a different character.

In August, 1802, a young married lady, and near neighbor, had intermittent fever, and applied to me. I gave the usual remedy, and had no doubt of success; this did not answer, and without telling me, she sent off a dozen miles for a more experienced physician. I heard of this, and one evening she sent for me in all haste, saying, unless relieved she should die. I found her vomiting an indigo coloured fluid, with great anxiety, and difficult respiration, pulse small, feeble and slow. I gave laudanum which quieted all things for the night. Her physician was sent for as well as another to whom we looked up. When we met I suggested poison as the cause, for which I was ridiculed, but the prescription agreed upon at once, was such as my opinion approved. After drinking a pint of water from the spring she took four grains of sulphate of copper in half an ounce of water, and water after it. This was soon brought up, and the water and sulphate repeated as soon as we could; when this was vomited freely, all uneasy feelings were removed; it ought to have been mentioned, that when we met she was vomiting, &c., as when I saw her the evening before. Various remedies were prescribed, and I was directed to repeat the emetic whenever the sickness, anxiety, &c., returned. This I had to do every day, and sometimes twice for several days, and always with relief, until I told what I believed was the cause: after that we had some days of greater suffering before they would agree to my proposition. This was for me to bring from home every thing she ate and drank. After another emetic, this was done; she recovered daily, and at last said she was well enough to live as usual. While all this was doing, many attempts were made by their negroes to bring her such things to eat as they knew she liked; but

all was faithfully resisted. In a few days after we left her, I was sent for again, had to repeat the emetic, and send her on a visit to a friend where her negroes could not go; she did not complain any more.

I know very well this idea of poisoning by our slaves is ridiculed by most medical men; but it is sometimes said "seeing is believing, but feeling is the truth." I have seen and felt what I have here written; the facts are indisputable whatever the cause may be.

Loretto, Essex County, Va., March 7, 1839.

Case of Exostosis of Upper Jaw, successfully treated by B. A. ROBERTS, M. D. of Charleston, (communicated by Professor GEDDINGS.)

On the 14th August, 1837, Charity, a servant woman of Mrs. Miller, called on me to ascertain whether I could afford her any relief in her wretched condition. She had been labouring under incessant and agonizing pains in the antrum highmorianum of the right side, which she regarded as the consequence of the impaired condition of the teeth. On this supposition, she had several of them extracted, without any appreciable abatement of her sufferings. Yet deluded with the belief that some one of the remaining teeth was the secret agent of all she suffered, she persisted in having more extracted. Still the evil continued, the suffering was unabated, the cause undetected, and to add to the depression of her hopes, and the aggravation of her ills, a purulent discharge oozed from the empty sockets of the affected side. She again had recourse to medical advice, hoping that this new phasis of her malady, might lead to some indication that would relieve her: at least, that it might reveal its hidden sources, its condition and its prospects of being remediable. And here for the first time, was it suggested that the antrum was in an unsound state.

It was at this moment, under these circumstances, that she applied to me to perform an operation, which her medical adviser declared to be indispensable. At first, I imagined it to be an abscess of the cavity from the pus discharged, from the strange sensations experienced, and from the greater frequency of this disease over others peculiar to this part. I inserted a trocar into the socket of the second molar and instead of the gush of matter I had expected, the passage of the instrument was intercepted by a hard dense impregnable substance. The existence of an exostosis now forced itself on me. To make assurance doubly sure, I had access to several of my medical friends, among whom was Dr. Geddings. On examination of the part, the consideration of the symptoms, the obstinate nature of the disease, they concurred with me in opinion, that an exostosis was present, and that the sole indication of relief was its extirpation. Accordingly, on the 18th of August, the above gentleman with several others of the profession was present, when I proceeded to perform the operation. With a common scalpel, I dissected away the gum from the canine teeth to the last molar raised the flap which it made from the alveolar process, and with a trephine opened into the cavity. Success was easier than had been anticipated in consequence of the carious condition of the process which was so general on the affected side as to reach from the second incisor anteriorly to the pterygoid process posteriorly. In the loss of substance the external parietes of the cavity shared, so that the bony tumour which filled up and occupied it could be readily reached. The trephine was applied, the cavity enlarged, and the exostosis removed. It measured in circumference three inches, was light, and cancellated on its

surface, but dense and resisting in its more internal layers. There was little or no hemorrhage to delay the operation, or any application to arrest it. After removing every spiculum of diseased bone, and cleansing out the cavity, the flap was replaced and to nature was entrusted the cure. Granulations sprouted up in full luxuriance, and in the short period of four weeks, the woman was in enjoyment of excellent health. It may be well to remark that when I saw her for the first time, the only untoward symptom the disease presented that might have determined the diagnosis of exostosis, was the occlusion of the nasal cavity. Respiration through this natural channel was impossible, but such an obstacle I can readily conceive may occur from a high and acute inflammation in the lining membrane of the part. An incipient abscess is almost invariably announced by such an obstruction and a preponderance of the affection over the other naturally suggested its existence. Bordenave and Abernethy have both noticed the presence of exostosis in these cavities, but to my recollection there has been no history of them recorded, where the tumour was so large, where such extensive injury was inflicted on the adjacent parts and where nature after the causative malady had been removed, exerted her recuperative powers, so benignly and so quickly. Its early history, its duration, its probable causes, whether local or constitutional, are involved in mystery, the patient calling on me but a short time before the operation, and seemed to know nothing more of it than her sufferings.

Notice of the Cape May Albinos. By Dr. SAMUEL L. MARCY.—The two female Cape May Albinos, a short account of which may be seen in the *American Medical Intelligencer*, vol. i, No. 12, Art. 3, continue in a healthy condition. The mother seems destined to propagate a family of them, having had three children, possessing all the peculiarities of the African race, and three Albinos. Her two first children were fair male representatives of Africa, then followed two female Albinos, then by way of punctuation a black female, (now dead); and on the first of June last, commenced another line, with another Albino male. Her coloured children being all dead, her family consists of three children, possessing a more delicate skin than any white children I ever saw. The father and mother, Peter and Kezia Humphreys, both fair emblems of the African race, were born and apprenticed in the county of Cape May, and always maintained a character for industry, integrity and virtue, far above the majority of the common negroes of the neighbourhood. I shall not attempt assigning any thing like a reasonable cause for this freak of nature in this black and white family. The mother accounts for the appearance of the first Albino, by attributing it to a severe fright she received, by the falling down of an old white mare while she was driving her, attached to a wagon. If the fright had any effect upon the child in utero, why was not the child marked in form as well as colour? The mother was accustomed to drive the mare daily: if the fright had had any effect, it should have produced a half horse, half mule, or half alligator. At first view I was unwilling to admit, that the Great Creator ever left his work in so loose a manner, that the imagination of the mother should alter or determine the form or colour, but the subsequent children go further to strengthen the doctrine, that the mind of the mother may affect the fetus in utero, than any fact that ever came under my notice. The mother evidently suffered as much mortification and distress at the appearance of her white

No. XLVIII.—August, 1839. 44

offspring, as any respectable white lady would at becoming the mother of a perfect Negro child; the mother appeared ashamed of, and very reluctantly exposed her child to the gaze of the public; made use of every endeavour to render the child dark, by exposing it to the rays of the sun, &c., &c.; her mind dwelt incessantly upon the child, until the delivery of her second Albino; and her first and immediate question on delivery was, "what colour is it?" If the thing is to be admitted as possible, here was a continued cause operating to produce the effect; after the birth of the second white child, she became reconciled, and the suspicions of her husband, which had been excessive, now subsided, and the affairs of life went on as smoothly as if the children had been of the proper colour, and, in due time, she gave birth to a full-blooded African, and all was well; and, in the proper course of time, she became pregnant a sixth time: about this time her house was much frequented by visitors from Philadelphia and elsewhere, to view the "great curiosity;" and by dint of much persuasion she consented to visit Philadelphia with her children, and exhibited them at the Masonic Hall and other places for several weeks, in September, October and November last; the jeerings and ungentlemanly remarks made by, I am happy to say, a few ignorant men, caused her much mental suffering, and revived all her former recollections and associations; early in the winter she returned to her own home desponding, and, on the first of June, gave birth to her third and last Albino. The question now arises, was the above cause sufficient to produce these effects? or did the same cause that produced the first, whatever it might have been, continue to operate until it produced the third? and what really was the remote and proximate cause? I leave to physiologists, more able to determine than myself.

To those who have not had an opportunity of seeing these Albinos, the following description may not be uninteresting; they have all the features of a regular built negro child, flat foot and broad, leg inserted in the centre of the same, with a natural curve of the tibia, thick lips, broad nose, hair woolly, skin unusually delicate and fair, eyes light blue, cornea surrounded by a delicate ring of pink or peach-blossom, the pupil encircled with the same coloured ring, giving to the eye a peculiar appearance; the sight suffers by a strong light, which causes the child to apply its hand above the eye for a shade; hair long and curly, resembling combed worsted in colour, or a white spaniel; eyebrows and eyelashes the same; intelligent, active and playful; a perfect *lusus naturæ*.

Cold Spring. N. J., Aug. 15th 1837.

[The preceding communication was mislaid, and has been only just recovered. The delay in its publication is due to this accident.—ED.]

Abstraction of the Uterus after Delivery.—The following shocking instance of malpractice is recorded in the *New York Journal of Medicine and Surgery*, by JNO. H. GRISCOM, M. D.—"On the 7th of April, 1839, at the request of Ira B. Wheeler, Esq., coroner, I examined the body of Mrs. Cozzins, the wife of a respectable mechanic, No. 328 Madison-street, at the time absent from the city. I was assisted in the examination by Dr. S. C. Ellis, in the presence of Drs. Nichols, Lobstein, and Walters. Before the examination, we obtained the following history: Mrs. C. was delivered of a healthy, living child, about one A. M., without any other assistance than her sister and a female friend, both married, and the former a mother. The cord was tied and cut *secundum artem*; but the placenta was retained beyond the usual time. Three hours having

elapsed without its disengagement, the sister went for a physician and obtained the services of Septimus Hunter, who represented himself to be a physician, but was at the time a clerk in a drug store. Upon his arrival, he immediately addressed himself to the task of removing the placenta, the successive stages of which operation will be mentioned presently.

"We were shown prior to the dissection, a mass of fleshy substance in a washbowl, which I at once recognised as a uterus; also, in another vessel, the placenta was shown us, which was entire, but without a vestige of the umbilical cord attached to it. The latter was subsequently discovered in a pail of dirty water.

"On stripping the body, the abdomen was found very sunken. The usual incisions were made, and the following uncommon appearances were presented: 1st. A total absence of the uterus. 2d. The broad ligaments much torn and ragged, and partly deficient. One fallopian tube was absent, but both ovaria remained *in situ*. 3d. The upper extremity of the vagina was open and free, so that the hand introduced from without would pass directly into the cavity of the abdomen, and the intestines could be touched. The intestines were high up as left by the contracting uterus. 4th. A considerable quantity of extravasated blood was seen on each side near the ovaria, forming spots of ecchymosis beneath the membranes. No effused blood was seen, however, within the abdomen, except this. 5th. A laceration of the vagina, about an inch and-a-half in length, a short distance from its superior extremity.

"By reverting to the uterus, we found the deficient parts attached to it, viz: one fallopian tube, entire; a portion of the broad ligaments, and about an inch of the upper end of the vagina, which had been divided by an even circle, though manifestly without the aid of any cutting instrument. The external surface of the uterus was about half denuded of its peritoneal coat, leaving the muscular fibres entirely bare. Its external surface was smooth, and the part where the placenta had been attached very apparent, presenting a slight brown colour. The whole organ was about the size of a child's head at birth. Large quantities of coagula were about the body; the bedding was thoroughly soaked with blood, and a large puddle of it, of a bright red colour, covered the floor beneath the bed.

"The examination of an intelligent female witness before the coroner's jury, developed the following facts:—Immediately after the *quasi* doctor arrived, he took hold of the cord, and making strong traction upon it, he completely inverted the uterus, the placenta still adhering, pulling still harder, he severed the cord from its attachment and gave it to the witness. He then took hold of the placenta, removed it, and laid it aside, saying there was more to come away still. He then grasped the uterus of the unfortunate patient, and by dint of 'excessive' pulling, after about three quarters of an hour, (during which period he relaxed his efforts occasionally to rest and remove his coat, the miserable patient constantly uttering the most piercing and heart-rending cries, such as 'you are tearing my heart out, &c.,') he succeeded in dragging the uterus from its attachments, and separated it from the body, holding it in his hands, and exhibiting it as a proof of his prowess and skill, saying that 'he never had met with such an extraordinary case before.' When asked what it was, he replied 'either a polypus or a false conception.' During this brutal operation, the groans of the suffering woman were at first strong and loud; these together with the force which the man was seen to use, excited the alarms of the attendants, who urged him to desist and allow other medical advice to be called; but with incredible hardihood he persevered, insisting that all was right, that she must endeavour to be patient, and that *he would be responsible for her life*. Towards the close of the performance, her cries became more and more faint, and at length entirely ceased. He thought she was endeavouring to support the pain with patience, and encouraged her in so doing by words. When he turned to look after her, and to feel her pulse, he found that she was dead.

"It is due to the profession to say, that the performer of this horrible tragedy

is not, *de jure*, a member of the profession, though he asserts that he has a recommendation from three surgeons of the British Navy, of his medical proficiency, and that he has had a large amount (three hundred cases) of obstetric practice. He appears to be about thirty-two or thirty-three years of age, and has been in this country two years."

Another case of a similar character which occurred in the town of Pulaski, New York, is quoted by Dr. Griscom. The details were furnished by Mr. T. S. Markoe, an intelligent medical student, who was cognizant of all the facts at the time of their occurrence, and saw the preparation.

"The woman had had a perfectly natural and easy labour. The child was born and removed from the mother, but the placenta was retained. After waiting a certain time, the practitioner in attendance judged it necessary to pass in his hand in order to extract it. He did so, and as he thought, found the placenta attached very firmly near the mouth of the uterus. He then undertook to peel it off from its attachment, but found the greatest difficulty in doing so, it was so closely adherent that repeated and long continued efforts were made without success. Supposing, however, that the life of his patient and his own professional reputation depended upon his succeeding, he redoubled his efforts until, as he himself said, he was exerting a degree of force which made him fearful for the consequences. During all this time the woman was screaming loudly, and exclaiming that he was killing her. Still thinking that he had the placenta, he persevered, until at last it yielded entirely, and he commenced to extract. The extraction was strongly resisted by something, and much exertion was still necessary to bring the mass down to the external parts. Labouring under the same fatal delusion, he succeeded by dint of main force in bringing it quite out from the body of the mother. 'Judge of my surprise,' says he, in the paper which he wrote in his defence, 'when I found that I had the whole uterus in my hand.' However, the mischief was done, and he thought all he could do, was to separate the few remaining attachments, which he did, by tearing them off, and put the whole out of sight as quick as possible. The girl to whom was allotted the office of disposing of it, seeing in the whole procedure something suspicious, fortunately preserved the specimen. The poor woman immediately after the performance of this barbarous operation, began to sink, and was soon in a dying condition. No hemorrhage ensued, but the shock to the nervous system was such that she expired in about two hours.

"On examining the uterus, it was found about twice as large as a child's head at birth, containing within its cavity, the placenta *loose and unattached*. One of the ovaries had been brought away with the lacerated broad ligament; the broad ligament of the opposite side and the fallopian tube, were torn through quite near the uterus; the posterior surface of the uterus was rough and covered with cellular shreds and without a peritoneal coat; the peritoneum still covered the anterior and superior parts. The old man says that his mistake occurred in this way: the edges of the os tincæ being relaxed and protruding into the vagina, he mistook this protrusion for the edge of the placenta; passing his fingers into the *cul de sac* which the vagina makes with the neck of the uterus, he perforated the coats of the vagina supposing he was separating the placenta. His fingers were thus behind the uterus which he proceeded to tear from its connections. From inspection of the uterus, it is plain that he separated it from the peritoneum, over the whole posterior surface, and perforated this membrane at its upper part. Supposing then that he had detached the placenta, he extracted the uterus by main force, as above mentioned. The vagina was torn off very short."

The following further details are given by Dr. H. T. NOYES:—"On the morning of April 29th, 1838, I was called in consultation with Dr. * * *

* * * to see Mrs. W. who was in labour, and was said to be dying; I arrived about one o'clock, A. M., and found myself in the midst of one of the most unparalleled scenes of distress and agony that could well be imagined; the doctor delivering what he called an 'adhered placenta'—the father and husband

of the patient, and the female attendants, uttering loud lamentations, and the patient herself, at the top of her voice, telling the doctor he was killing her, and begging him to let her alone: I placed my finger upon the pulse and found that she was rapidly sinking, at the same time inquiring of the doctor what was the nature of the case; he told me that it was an adherent placenta, such as he had never before met with in his practice, or read, or heard of before, and that he was nearly through with his delivery, and should finish in a minute or two, which he did, in about the time specified, remarking to me 'that it comes like tearing raw sheep-skin,' that the placenta adhered to the neck and mouth of the uterus, and that there were some shreds of it left, but that he thought they would be discharged with the lochia.' I told him that the patient was dying, but at his request made a hurried examination *per vaginam*, found shreds of cellular tissue and membrane reaching nearly or quite to her knees, but found no uterus: on telling him this he remarked that it was there, and had contracted well, and placing his hand above the pubis, he said he could feel it contracting. By this time, the woman, from the relaxation of the muscular power and the near approach of death, began to slide from her seat, (made by tying three chairs together) and was prevented from descending to the floor by my seizing her under the arms and requesting assistance to lay her on the bed: after which she lived about ten or fifteen minutes. From the time of my arrival to her death was about twenty or twenty-five minutes; the attendants informed me that the doctor had been at work an hour and a half in removing the supposed placenta before I arrived. I would, finally, remark that the patient was a large and rather fat woman, that this was her fourth child, which was large and healthy, that the labour had continued about fifteen hours, the doctor himself admitting, that it was tolerably easy, and that the woman was quite comfortable after the delivery, until he commenced operating.' The same letter contains the information that this individual is held to bail for the sum of \$500 and that his trial will probably take place the ensuing autumn."

A third case is recorded by Bartholin, and a fourth by Mr. Cooke. (*Med. Chirurg. Rev.* April 1836. p. 482.)

Successful Treatment of Erysipelas by Raw Cotton.—Dr. F. M. ROBERTSON, of Augusta, Georgia, in a communication in the *Southern Med. and Surg. Journ.* (July, 1839,) states, "that he has employed raw cotton, in the treatment of erysipelas, as recommended by M. Reynaud, with very satisfactory results. Two cases in which it was employed, are related. One of these was a little girl who had a week previous, accidentally received a small wound, which penetrated through the scalp to the cranium. The wound had suppurated, and, on close examination, Dr. R. found that it had taken on erysipelatous inflammation, which had extended to the right ear, and, on the forehead, as far as the nose and appeared to be progressing over the entire scalp and face. It was in the afternoon when Dr. R. saw her: during the morning, the febrile excitement was high, and she had been, occasionally, delirious. Dr. R. immediately had the hair cut as close as it could be, with a pair of scissors, and a cold bread and milk poultice applied to the wound, and the entire scalp and forehead covered with the bats of cotton, as in the former case; at the same time, a dose of calomel, to be followed by epsom salts, was administered. The relief from the cotton was immediate; all the bad symptoms were relieved, and, after the operation of the medicine, the general excitement was moderated and the delirium did not return again. In this case the inflammation progressed as far as the cheeks, and to the left ear. The cotton could not be applied over the eyes and nose, as the patient was too young to understand the importance of submitting to such a cumbersome application; it, however, arrested its further progress from the cheeks and scalp. All the local symptoms were relieved as soon as the cotton was applied; no blisters formed on the forehead or cheeks, and the desquamation of the cuticle was very slight: much less than I have ever seen it in the mildest case of this disease, when treated without cotton. During the progress of this case, which lasted for seven

days, the only internal medicine administered, except the first cathartic, was an occasional saline aperient and cold lemonade or soda water, made by dissolving the common soda powders of the shops.

Case illustrative of the Etiology of Spontaneous Amputation of the Limbs of the Fetus in Ulcro. By A. H. BUCHANAN, M. D. of Columbia, Tennessee.—In the month of February last, I was called in haste to the country, about 3 miles, to see a negro woman who was said to be suffering from severe pain in the back, and uterine hemorrhage. She was the mother of ten children, aged about 40 years, and had miscarried three or four times. On my arrival, I found she had aborted, and that the uterine hemorrhage had ceased. Upon an examination of the fetus, which was between three and four months old, and perfectly formed, except a considerable flattening of the head laterally, I found the umbilical cord twisted about the thigh and neck in the following manner: the cord passes from the umbilicus under the right thigh, just above the knee joint, and continuing completely around it, passes under itself, and ascends in front of the chest to the right side of the neck, around which it twines twice, or rather twice and an half, so that two coils are seen in front of the neck, and three behind; it then passes in front of the left shoulder to the placenta. From the compressed appearance of the cord opposite the left shoulder, I think it passed under the left armpit to the placenta. Thus circumstanced, it is evident that any efforts made by the child to extend the thigh tightened the cord about the neck, and also about the thigh, as well as dragged upon its umbilical extremity, and obstructed the circulation. The same effects also are produced by extending back the head; but in this last action, the placental extremity of the cord is immediately pulled upon. It is very fair to conclude that the fetus thus situated came to its death, either from the compression of its throat by the cord, or from its obstructed circulation, or from both; and that the abortion was a consequence of its death. At many points where the cord twists upon itself, it is very much compressed, or rather atrophied. But the object of communicating this case, is to call attention to the effects produced upon the thigh by the twisting of the cord around it. It may be seen by any present, that at the point of compression, only the integuments intervene between the cord and bone, all the other parts having disappeared; but the limb below the ligature, appears as fully developed as its fellow, and the integuments immediately under the ligature appear sound. Now it is highly probable, had the child lived to its full time, the leg would have been amputated by the process of absorption carried on in consequence of the pressure of the cord around the limb, and that the opposite surfaces would have healed as is usual in such cases, during the process of amputation; the limb below the ligature retaining its vitality by its connection with the integuments, they being the last parts to give way during the amputation; that the leg below the knee joint would have been more or less atrophied before its complete separation, is almost certain.—*Minutes of the Med. Soc. Tennessee, May, 1839.*

Fresh Vaccine Virus.—Dr. Charles A. LEE of New York, informs us that he has lately obtained virus from a cow affected with kine pock. "It is very common," he states, "for the cows that go on board our New York, Liverpool, and Havre packets, to have this disease; and the cow from which I got it came from one of these packets. The agent informed me that there is hardly a time in the year, but that some of the cows are affected with it."

Dr. Bartlett's case of Double Consciousness.—DR. BARTLETT writes to us that R. M., whose case is reported in our preceding number, p. 42, died about noon, May 21. "The evening before, she took, in the course of an hour, twenty-eight grains extract of stramonium. She had before taken twenty with impunity. I had some months ago, prescribed two grains every six hours, for the spasmodic cough. She had gradually increased the quantity till she arrived at the dose just stated. She was comatose throughout the night, and up to the time of her death.

"Dissection threw no light on the peculiarities of the case. There was very

great vascularity of the membranes of the brain; and thinning and redness of the gastric mucous membrane. The scalp was a full quarter of an inch in thickness, and rigid as sole leather."

Albany Medical College and the Thomsonians.—"It appears from the Albany Journal of the 20th of June, with which we have been favoured by a Correspondent, that the Thomsonian Medical Society of the State of New York held their fourth annual meeting at the Senate Chamber, of the State House, in the city of Albany, June 11th, 1839. This would be news of but little interest to our readers; not so some of the events that transpired.

"It appears, from the published statement of the proceedings, that an invitation was given for the Society to visit the Albany Medical College, and that a committee was appointed 'to wait upon Dr. March, President of the Faculty, and ascertain when it would be his pleasure to receive the Society at that Institution;' that 'the committee appointed to wait upon Professor March, reported, that the professor would entertain the Society at the Anatomical Museum of the College' at a certain hour. It was then resolved, 'that it is in the opinion of this Society necessary to raise the standard of medical education among Thomsonian physicians,' (a necessity, by the way, which has always been contested,) 'we recommend the students of the Thomsonian school to acquire a more thorough knowledge of anatomy, physiology, surgery and chemistry.'

"The committee visited the Professor at the time appointed, and were 'entertained' by him; after which the following resolutions were in all gratitude passed unanimously; and the Albany College now holds the exalted position of being the first, we believe, of the Medical Institutions in the United States, publicly patronised by the Thomsonians!

"Resolved, That the thanks of this Society be tendered to Professor March, for his generous invitation to visit the Albany Medical College this day, and for the courtesy with which the Society were treated while there; also, for the liberal proposition 'to receive with kindness into the classes of anatomy, physiology, surgery and chemistry, Thomsonian students upon the same terms as other students of the College.'

"Resolved, That this Society commend the Albany Medical College to the favourable notice of all the Students of the Thomsonian School, that wish to acquire a more thorough knowledge of anatomy, physiology and surgery."

We have copied the preceding notice from the *American Medical Library and Intelligencer* (July 1, 1839,) and need only remark in the words of the editor of that journal, that "comment on these unique proceedings is unnecessary."

Remarks on Enlargement of the Tonsils, attended by certain Deformities of the Chest. By J. MASON WARREN, M. D. of Boston.—The object of this interesting paper, is to point out by the exhibition of a number of cases, the certainty and ease with which the operation for excision of the tonsils may be performed with the present improved instrument, and the great relief always experienced by the removal of these organs when in an enlarged state. Whilst nothing original is intended by the author in his remarks on certain deformities of the chest which complicate this disease, they may serve to draw attention to the relation which exists between the enlargement of the tonsils and this affection.

"In 1827, M. Dupuytren published a paper," Dr. Warren remarks, "on the lateral depression of the parietes of the chest, consisting of a depression more or less great of the ribs on each side, and a proportionate protrusion of the sternum in front, accompanied by some antero-posterior curvature of the vertebral column. A portion of these cases occurred in children of a scrofulous habit, and were invariably accompanied by an enlargement of the tonsils.

"The symptoms described by M. Dupuytren as attending this disease, were habitual shortness of breath, and difficulty of enunciation. With infants there was great difficulty in taking the breast, the child being threatened with suffocation whenever the nipple was detained for any length of time in the mouth. During sleep, the mouth was kept habitually open, and the respiration accom-

panied by great noise, and frequently interrupted by frightful dreams and cries. "These symptoms," says M. Dupuytren, "may be increased so as to prevent the development of the vital functions, and cause death in the earliest period of life. When these difficulties do not induce death immediately, they may destroy life at a later period, either in preventing the child from taking the breast, or in so altering the nutrition as to prevent the development of the strength of the different organs; in this case death does not at once take place, but the child lives in a miserable state of feebleness and emaciation, which deprives him of the greater part of his faculties."

"In 1827, shortly after the publication of this paper, Mr. Coulson, of London, published some cases in confirmation of those given by Dupuytren, adding, also, three cases of his own, of a deformity of the chest, different from that before described. "The external appearances of the chest," says Mr. Coulson, "in this second kind of deformity, are directly the reverse of those which we have just been considering. The sternum is hollow or concave anteriorly, the sides of the chest are very prominent, and the spinal column but slightly, if in any degree, altered from its natural shape; this is not so frequently congenital as the former kind, but frequently occurs in persons of a weak habit, who are narrow-chested, and stoop a great deal. The constitutional symptoms are very much the same as those attendant on the other kind of deformity." On the three cases appended to the paper of Mr. Coulson, and three of the four cases of M. Dupuytren, enlargement of the tonsils existed; but in none of them does it appear that removal of these organs was practised, although it is stated that in one or two of them the tonsils were so large as nearly to fill up the posterior part of the faucea, so that we are not enabled to judge of what would have been the change effected on the symptoms referred to the chest, had this operation been performed.

"Within the last two years twenty cases have occurred in our practice, in which it was thought necessary that an operation for the removal of the tonsils should be practised: in nineteen of these cases the operation was successfully performed; in one case the tonsils projected so little into the throat, as to make it impossible to seize them with the instrument. The operation was temporarily deferred. Of these twenty cases, fifteen were children, or less than twelve years of age.

"Of the fifteen children, eleven had more or less deformity of the chest, consisting, in the greater number, of a projection of the cartilages of the ribs forwards, with a considerable excavation of the sternum. In these patients very little curvature could be detected in the spinal column.

"In the five adults, no alteration of the parietes of the chest was perceptible.

"The symptoms occurring in these patients were as follows:

"In every one of them was more or less difficulty in respiration, in many cases the noise being so great during sleep as to make it impossible for any person to sleep in the same room; the sleep was often disturbed by frightful dreams.

"In many of the patients there was great difficulty of swallowing, liquid food being often regurgitated into the nostrils; in one case, no solid food could be taken without the previous use of a powerful astringent. About half the cases were attended with severe constitutional symptoms.

"In one case entire deafness was present. Some of the patients were liable to periodical attacks of fever; in one case, a child, five years of age, returning, latterly, as often as once a fortnight, and lasting three or four days. Eight of the fifteen children showed more or less marks of a scrofulous habit. Eighteen of the patients had both tonsils removed; the other patient being so much relieved by the removal of one tonsil, that it was unnecessary to have the operation repeated on the other side.

"In about half the patients this operation was performed on both sides the same day; in the others a week was allowed to elapse before the other tonsil was removed.

"In eighteen out of the nineteen cases, almost immediate relief was afforded to all the symptoms; in the other case, no great relief was apparent, and this

seemed to be attributable to the particular shape of these organs, the base being quite broad, and extending some distance down the throat, about half of each tonsil was removed. At the end of a short period, an appearance was presented as if they had been again regenerated; this arose from the upper and lower portions rising or curling up, as it were, after the apex had been removed. At the end of two years, this patient submitted to a second operation, followed by much relief, and is now in a fair way of recovery.

"The operation, as performed by the present improved instrument, is instantaneous—not attended with much pain—in no case was there any considerable hæmorrhage—usually nothing more than a few mouthfuls of blood are discharged. The patients are able to return home and resume their ordinary occupations, as if nothing uncommon had occurred, a slight soreness only being experienced for the few following days.

"We now proceed to offer one or two cases illustrative of the different symptoms of the disease, and may first select one which will present most of the symptoms occurring in the course of it.

"W., of Newton, Mass., five years of age, November, 1836. For the last two years, this child has been troubled by an enlargement of the tonsils, first manifested by a swelling which appeared on the outside of the throat, and supposed by the parents, at the time, to be mumps. As the disease increased, the patient gradually lost his flesh and strength, and was subject to frequent sore throat, attended by febrile attacks, these latterly occurring as often as once in a fortnight, and lasting two or three days; his breathing at night was very difficult, and accompanied with much noise. The ear of one side was inflamed, attended with a purulent discharge; he was very sensitive to any loud musical sounds. He is small of his age, thin, of an irritable disposition. The chest, on examination, is found, to be much deformed, presenting that appearance called excavated sternum, it being very much depressed in its centre, and the ribs at their union with the cartilages elevated so as to form with them an acute angle.

"The tonsils, on examination, are so much enlarged as to touch each other, and entirely obstruct the posterior part of the fauces; these swellings are distinctly felt, and even visible on the outside of the throat, at the angle of the jaw; one of the tonsils was removed, and afforded immediate relief to all the symptoms. In the month of April following, some difficulty being experienced, the other was also excised. I saw the patient, August 3d, 1837, nearly a year after the first operation. From being a miserable child, and who, as his mother stated, to use her own words, "she had not the least idea of raising," he has become a fine healthy boy—has been perfectly free from difficulty of respiration, and no febrile attack since the operation.

"The sensitiveness of the ear had diminished, and the deformity of the chest was much less obvious.

"The object of his calling, was from having experienced the day before some oppression at the stomach, which induces difficulty in the respiration; and his mother, fearing a return of his old disease, immediately brought him into town. The symptoms were explained, by his having passed a fortnight absent from home, where he had been allowed rather too much freedom in his diet.

"The following is the case of a person of a more advanced age, in which deafness was produced by the disease:

"B., aged 18—November, 1836.

"For two or three years has been subject to frequent attacks of sore throat; for three months has had a purulent discharge from the right ear; is now quite deaf in both ears, so as to require to be spoken to in a very loud voice. It is for this deafness that he applies for advice.

"On examination of the ears by the speculum, the tympanum on both sides was found to be in a perfectly sound state; on the side from which the discharge appears, the lining membrane of the ear is reddened, and covered by a purulent deposit. The patient bears all the marks of a scrofulous constitution. The tonsils are found to be very much enlarged, attended with considerable redness of the back part of the fauces.

"Astringent remedies being tried for a fortnight without effect, both tonsils were removed. On the following day he began to hear better; on the second day his hearing was perfectly restored, and sounds became even so acute as to be painful.

"In a day or two the deafness returned, and lasted a week; he then recovered his hearing, and has remained perfectly well since. I have seen him lately, more than two years having elapsed since the operation; and he has experienced no return of his difficulty.

"*January, 1838.*—A gentleman, twenty years of age, from the Western country, called on me with the tonsils greatly enlarged; he had been troubled with this affection for five years, and has tried many applications without effect. For the last year he has been unable to swallow solid food without having first snuffed a great quantity of tobacco, which apparently caused sufficient contraction or insensibility of the parts to allow of the passage of the food. If the use of the tobacco was omitted for a single night, he found it difficult and sometimes impossible to swallow.

"Both tonsils were removed at the same time; very little hemorrhage occurred, and the operation was immediately followed by great relief.

"Miss J., twelve years old, from Maine.

"This child, from infancy, has been suffering from enlarged tonsils; within a few years they have become very much increased in size, so as to materially affect her health. She is very subject to sore throat, attended with severe febrile affections. She is of a dark complexion, black hair and eyes, quite thin, and rather tall of her age.

"The tonsils are very large, fleshy, and vascular, and present less of that indented appearance usually observed where there has been frequent inflammations. When the respiration is quiet, the tonsils touch each other. The chest, on examination, is found to be very much deformed, presenting that alteration, called excavated sternum, in its most exaggerated form; the hollow lining almost large enough to contain a small orange: this deformity has been, for many years, observed by her parents.

"The breathing at night is very difficult and noisy; she is subject to attacks of deafness, and at present does not hear unless addressed in a loud voice.

"The right tonsil was removed on the 12th, and the patient at once relieved by it; five days afterwards the other tonsil was removed, leaving the throat perfectly free. On the 25th I saw the patient, and the mother informed me that all the previous bad symptoms were removed—that the child has quite recovered her health. The difficulty of breathing is relieved, and her hearing returned; a cutaneous eruption which had long troubled her, has disappeared.

"To these cases might be added one or two in which these organs were removed while the patient was labouring under an attack of severe tonsillitis. In one case the symptoms were immediately removed by the operation; in another, inflammation had extended to the adjacent parts, and an abscess formed, as is often seen in this disease. The affection, however, was much shortened in duration, lasting four days, instead of fourteen, as had been usual with his patient, who was liable to attacks every winter. The operation was repeated, and the other tonsil was removed on a subsequent attack, with the same result.

"Some time since I communicated to this society the case of a young child from Maine, who was brought to Boston suffering from a disease of the throat. The parents seemed to be quite unconscious of the cause of its troubles. There was great difficulty of breathing and deglutition. The child had a spoon, the bowl of which it placed almost instinctively in its mouth when going to sleep; its health was very miserable. The trouble was entirely explained by the discovery of the enlarged tonsils quite obstructing the throat. The removal of them was followed by great relief.

"The mother informed me that another child had died with the same symptoms a few years previous, the cause of its illness being unknown. They resided in an obscure spot, distant from any competent medical advice.

"In these cases of the disease occurring in infancy where deformity of the

chest exists, Dupuytren advises that this affection should be treated in the following manner:—The child being placed in the lap of its nurse, the hand is pressed on that part of the sternum or ribs which project; a strong pressure is then made during inspiration, and removed during the movements of expiration. This repeated for many times daily, and continued for a long period, finally results in the disappearance of the deformity, or in a great improvement of appearance. As has been attempted to show above, however, it will be evident to all that the symptoms arise, certainly in the great number of cases, not from the deformity, but from the obstruction in the throat to the free passage of air.

"The instrument" used in these operations, has usually been the guillotine instrument, as described by Dr. Warren in his work on Tumours, being somewhat similar to that of Dr. Physick; it is, however, without the steel moveable needle, used to fix the tonsil and prevent it from falling into the throat, which appears to be useless, as the blade of the instrument drives the lining membrane of the tonsils into its groove, and thus secures it; and even if this were not the case, the mucus which covers the fauces causes the excised part to adhere to the blade, so that there is no danger of its escaping into the throat.

"In very young children, where the passage of the fauces is narrower, a more delicate instrument, invented by Dr. Fahnestock, of Pennsylvania, is, perhaps, preferable.

"From a review of the above cases, we shall find that many of the children are of a scrofulous constitution—that the enlargement of the tonsils causes great local trouble, attended with considerable constitutional disturbance—that the patient is much more liable to inflammatory attacks of the throat, than in cases where this enlargement does not exist—and that they are less liable, *after the operation, to these attacks.*

"In about half of all the cases, and in about two-thirds of the cases of children, deformity of the chest exists. Whether this depends on the general constitutional habit of the patient, or is induced by the obstruction in the throat to the free passage of air, the accounts received from parents as to the exact time when either affection was first observed, are not sufficiently accurate to permit us to determine; it is certain, however, that this deformity does not increase, but rather diminishes after the removal of the tonsils. The operation is a simple one, attended with no danger, and almost always affords immediate relief to the symptoms."—*Medical Examiner*, May 18, 1839.

Convention for the Revision of the Pharmacopœia.—We are informed that Delegates have been already appointed to the Medical Convention for the Revision of the Pharmacopœia, which is to meet in Washington in January next, by the Medical Society of New Jersey, the University of Maryland, the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, and Rhode Island Medical Society.

Cincinnati College.—The number of students in the Medical Department of this College, during the session 1838-9, was 112; and at the commencement held 3 March, 1839, the degree of M. D. was conferred upon 27 of them.

University of Virginia.—The number of medical students in this university the past session, was fifty-seven, a larger class than had ever before assembled there. The professors are, John P. Emmet, M. D. Professor of Chemistry and Materia Medica, James L. Cabell, M. D. Professor of Anatomy and Surgery, and R. E. Griffiths, M. D. Professor of Medicine. With the two first we have not the pleasure of an acquaintance, but with the last, we have had the happiness of many years intimacy, and from our knowledge of the extent of his acquirements, his zeal and industry, and his high and honourable character, we feel quite sure that he has at least contributed by his labours to the present success of the school.

* Invented by Caleb Eddy, Esq., of Boston.

Medical Department of Hampden Sidney College, i
students during the Session of 1838-9; graduated in medicine April 4, 1839, 14.

Albany Medical College.—From the Catalogue and Circular of this Institution, which has just reached us, it appears that the number of students during the past (first session) was sixty-eight, and that at its termination the degree of M. D., was conferred on thirteen of them. The faculty at present consists of Alden March, M. D., President and Professor of Surgery; Ebenezer Emmons, M. D., Professor of Chemistry and Natural History; James H. Armsby, M. D., Professor of Anatomy; David M. M'Lachlan, M. D., Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics; Gunning S. Bedford, M. D., Professor of Obstetrics; Thomas Hun, M. D., Professor of Institutes of Medicine; Amos Dean, Esq., Professor of Medical Jurisprudence.

American Journal of Dental Science, Devoted to Original Articles, Reviews of Dental Publications, the Latest Improvements in Surgical and Mechanical Dentistry, and Biographical Sketches of Distinguished Dentists. With Plates.—The title of this new periodical, the first number of which was published in New York in June last, is fully expressive of its plan and object. It is edited by Chapin A. Harris of Baltimore, and Eleazar Parmly of New York, both eminent Dentists. The number before us contains several interesting original communications and the commencement of a reprint of John Hunter's celebrated work on the human teeth, with notes by Mr. E. Parmly. It is the only work of the kind in this country, and deserves, and we trust will receive, the patronage of the cultivators of Dental Science.

The New York Journal of Medicine and Surgery.—This is the title of a new quarterly, the first number of which was issued in New York in July last. Its contents are creditable to the contributors; and the manner in which it is got up equally so to its publisher, Mr. G. Adlard. We shall enrich our own pages with notices or abstracts of its more interesting articles.

Memorial to Congress to Enact a Law for the Transmission of Vaccine Virus by Mail free of Postage.—We have received a letter from Dr. JAS. MAGOFFIN, JR., of Mercer, Mercer County Pennsylvania, in which the writer states that he has obtained the signatures of a number of the physicians in his neighbourhood to a memorial to congress, praying the enactment of a law for the conveyance of vaccine matter by mail free of postage; and he urges the making of a corresponding effort by the physicians of this city, and elsewhere. The object is certainly a useful one and deserves the active co-operation of the profession throughout the country.

Forthcoming Work.—DR. P. EARLE, is preparing a translation of Prof. Raciorski's "*Précis pratique et raisonné du Diagnostic.*"

This work treats of Diagnosis under the heads of Inspection, Mensuration, Palpation, Depression, Percussion, Auscultation, Smell, Taste, Chemical Tests, the Interrogation of Patients, Description of the Diseases of the Skin, of the Mouth, the Throat, and the Genital Organs; the alterations of the Blood, the affections of the Nervous system, and of those of the Respiratory, Circulatory, Digestive, and Urinary Organs, &c. &c. The Translation is from the last French edition, which contains more than twice the quantity of matter of any previous edition.

QUARTERLY MEDICAL ADVERTISER.

IN consequence of the extended circulation of the **AMERICAN JOURNAL OF THE MEDICAL SCIENCES**, the Proprietors intend, in compliance with the wishes of many of their friends, to prefix to each No. a Sheet of Advertisements. All Booksellers, Medical Gentlemen, and others desirous of taking advantage of this mode of announcement, will please address their Advertisements to **LEA & BLANCHARD**, Philadelphia, by the 10th day of the month preceding that of the publication of the Journal, viz: on 10th July, 10th October, 10th January, and 10th April.

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UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

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Theory and Practice of Medicine,
Institutes of Medicine,
Special and General Anatomy,
Materia Medica and Pharmacy,
Chemistry,
Surgery,
Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and
Children,

By NATHANIEL CHAPMAN, M. D.
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Dean of the Medical Faculty.

MEDICAL COLLEGE

OF THE

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

THE annual course of Lectures of the Medical College of the State of South Carolina, will commence on the second Monday of November.

J. EDWARDS HOLBROOK, M. D.,	<i>Professor of Anatomy.</i>
JOHN WAGNER, M. D.,	<i>Professor of Surgery.</i>
S. HENRY DICKSON, M. D.,	<i>Professor of Institutes and Practice of Medicine.</i>
JAMES MOULTRIE M. D.,	<i>Professor of Physiology.</i>
THOMAS G. PRIOLEAU, M. D.,	<i>Professor of Obstetrics.</i>
C. M. SHEPARD, M. D.,	<i>Professor of Chemistry.</i>
HENRY R. FROST, M. D.,	<i>Professor of Materia Medica.</i>
E. GEDDINGS, M. D.,	} <i>Professor of Pathological Anatomy and Medical Jurisprudence.</i>
F. WURDEMAN, M. D.,	
	<i>Demonstrator of Anatomy.</i>

SAMUEL HENRY DICKSON, M. D.,
Dean of the Faculty.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

At a Public Commencement, held April 5th, 1839, in the Musical Fund Hall, Locust Street, the Degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred by the Rev. Provost, JOHN LUDLOW, D. D., upon the following gentlemen: after which an Address was delivered by N. CHAPMAN, M. D., Professor of the Practice of Medicine.

NAMES.	RESIDENCE.	SUBJECT OF ESSAY.
Adams, Seth S.	Florida,	Circulation.
Alden, James M.	New York,	Strictures of the Rectum.
Alston, James W.	North Carolina,	Remittent Fever.
Baker, Charles S.	Pennsylvania,	Dyspepsia.
Bardwell, Brainard	Mississippi,	Rubeola.
Bascome, Daniel B.	Turk's Island,	Peritonitis.
Bayles, Geo. W.	Kentucky,	Reciprocal influence of the mental and organic man.
Beasley, James A.	Virginia,	Gastritis.
Bellamy, John D.	North Carolina,	Hysteria.
Bieber, William S.	Pennsylvania,	Leucorrhoea.
Blunt, Angus F.	Virginia,	Bilious Colic.
Boisseau, James P.	Virginia,	Acute Dysentery.
Bourgeat, Joseph B.	Louisiana,	Fever.
Bradford, Charles M.	New York,	Yellow Fever.
Brooks, William D. F.	New Jersey,	Dysmenorrhoea.
Broughton, Charles H.	Virginia,	Neuralgia.
Burns, Robert	Pennsylvania,	Physiology and Pathology of the Stomach.
Carson, James G.	Mississippi,	Hepatitis.
Chambers, George W.	Pennsylvania,	Cholera Infantum.
Cheshire, John S.	Kentucky,	Animal Heat.
Christian, William W.	Virginia,	Chimaphila Maculata.
Cochran, William A.	Alabama,	Syphilis.
Cock, Thomas F.	New York,	Pneumonia.
Collins, J. Milton	New York,	Insanity.
Constable, Thomas F.	Virginia,	Amenorrhoea.
Cooper, Richard M. Jun.	New Jersey,	Colitis.
Crichton, James E.	Virginia,	Hydrophobia.
Criddle, Edward F.	Virginia,	Measles.
Cross, William	Virginia,	Spinal Irritation.
Daniels, Ezekiel	Pennsylvania,	Injurious influence of tight dress.
Dibrell, James A.	Tennessee,	Pneumonia.
Donoho, Richard A.	North Carolina,	Amaurosis.
Dortch, Lewis J.	North Carolina,	Arthritis.
Dove, George M.	District of Columbia,	Scarlatina.
Dove, James	Virginia,	Dyspepsia.
Downey, John A.	North Carolina,	Quinia.
Eaton, Samuel W.	North Carolina,	Crocote.
Embree, George W.	New York,	Revulsion.
English, Th. Dunn	Pennsylvania,	Phrenology.
Eppes, Peter	Virginia,	Erysipelas.
Evatt, William H.	Canada,	Pleuritis.
Fountleroy, S. Griffin	Virginia,	Dysentery.
Fell, Jonathan	Pennsylvania,	Pericarditis.
Fox, Daniel J.	South Carolina,	Dysentery.
Frayser, Benjamin F.	Virginia,	Diseases of Dentition.
Garland, W. P.	Virginia,	Hepatitis.
Gilmer, Francis W.	Virginia,	Arthritis.
Given, Robert A.	Ireland,	Fractures.
Graves, Nathaniel S.	North Carolina,	Gastritis Acuta.
Griffin, Charles M.	Georgia,	Hydrophobia.
Griffin, James L. G.	Virginia,	Diseases of the Osseous System.
Haines, William S.	Delaware,	Colica Pictorum.
Hamilton, James S.	Georgia,	Puerperal Convulsions.

NAMES.	RESIDENCE.	SUBJECT OF ESSAY.
Hartman, William D.	Pennsylvania,	Menstruation.
Haskins, Richard E.	Virginia,	Pestis Orientalis.
Hawkins, Peter B.	North Carolina,	Gastritis.
Heaton, James D.	Virginia,	Trachitis.
Henry, Samuel H.	Maryland,	Club-foot.
Hill, William A.	Virginia,	Medicines.
Holden, Levi H.	Rhode Island,	Blood-letting.
Hudson, Edward	Pennsylvania,	Infantile Dentition.
Hughes, John S.	Virginia,	Scarlatina.
Hunter, Alexander	Georgia,	Evidences of general poisoning.
Hussey, Elijah M.	Alabama,	Position and Countenance.
Irwin, William F.	Pennsylvania.	Dropsy.
Johnson, John G.	Georgia,	The means of lessening the pains of Parturition.
Jones, Alexander	Maryland,	Resuscitation.
Jones, Randolph M.	Maryland,	Passions.
Kerr, James W.	Pennsylvania,	Cerebral symptoms connected with diseases of the alimentary canal.
Clapp, Joseph Jun.	Pennsylvania,	Fungus of the Testicles.
Larimore, James S.	Ohio,	On the color of the Skin.
Laurie, Shepherd	District of Columbia,	Medicine an elevated Science.
Lawrence, Thomas C.	Mississippi,	Yellow Fever.
Lea, James M.	North Carolina,	Dysentery.
Long, Crawford W.	Georgia,	Functional Amaurosis.
Lyle, William J.	Virginia,	Epilepsy.
MacKenzie, James S.	Maryland,	Croup.
Marthens, Henry C.	Pennsylvania,	Empyema.
Marr, John H.	Alabama,	Acute Gastritis.
Massenburg, William A.	Virginia,	Syphilis.
Mason, Robert H.	Virginia,	Acute Gastritis.
Maynard, Joseph P.	Barbadoes,	Nervous Asthenia.
McKee, Alexander R.	Kentucky,	Puerperal Peritonitis.
McKee, William H.	North Carolina,	Puerperal Madness.
Marshon, Sumpter	Mississippi,	Congestive Fever.
Millan, Lyle	Virginia,	Remittent Fever.
Middleton, Benjamin S.	Virginia,	Blood-letting.
Mitchell, Bruce H.	Alabama,	Auscultation of the Heart.
Mitchell, Moses T.	Pennsylvania,	Acute Dysentery.
Moore, James J.	North Carolina.	Intermittent Fever.
Moore, Edward W.	Louisiana,	Mercury.
Mosely, Thomas H.	Georgia,	The Mind as the result of Physiological Organization.
Nelson, William A.	Virginia,	Urinary Calculi.
Norcom, Caspar W.	North Carolina,	Phrenitis.
Oliver, James L.	North Carolina,	Proto-chloride of Mercury.
Page, William B.	Virginia,	Scarlatina.
Paschall, Zebulon M.	North Carolina,	Opium.
Patterson, George W.	Philadelphia,	Iodine.
Peacock, Howell	Georgia,	Remittent Fever.
Pegram, William E.	Virginia,	Angina Pectoris.
Pittman, Newson J.	North Carolina,	Bronchitis.
Pleasants, William B.	Virginia,	Scrofula.
Pope, Charles A.	Alabama,	Pathology of the Arteries.
Reese, John J.	Philadelphia,	Acute Dysentery.
Reynolds, Marcus	South Carolina,	Phrenitis.
Richardson, John D.	Pennsylvania,	Varicoid.
Ridgely, Henry	Delaware,	Lithotripsy.
Ridley, William M. S.	North Carolina,	Calandra Granaria.
Rives, Henry W.	Rhode Island,	Erysipelae.
Rives, William H.	Virginia,	Qualifications of a Surgeon.
Robards, Henry J.	North Carolina,	Pneumonia.

NAME.	RESIDENCE.	SUBJECT OF THESIS.
Roberts, William B.	Virginia,	Pleurisy.
Robeson, Andrew Jun.	Massachusetts,	Intermittent Fever.
Sappington, Thomas	Maryland,	Chronic Hepatitis.
Scott, Thomas F.	Virginia,	Amenorrhoea.
Shackelford, John	North Carolina,	Ramollissement.
Sims, Richard S.	Virginia,	Rubeola.
Smallwood, Thomas J. P.	North Carolina,	Acute Gastritis.
Smith, Edward G.	Philadelphia,	Traumatic Tetanus.
Spalding, Joshua A.	Maine,	Cholera.
Speece, J. Morton	Virginia,	Phrenitis.
Spence, William A. Jun.	Virginia,	Scalae Cornutum.
Stamps, William L.	Virginia,	Arachnitis.
Stokes, Thomas D.	North Carolina,	Delirium Tremens.
Stone, James B.	Virginia,	Ventriculus Stomachus.
Swanson, William G.	Georgia,	Puerperal Peritonitis.
Swartz, Benj. Franklin	Pennsylvania,	Hæmoptysis.
Talley, Horace A.	Virginia,	Dysentery.
Taylor, James Thoms	Alabama,	Eupatorium Perfoliatum.
Taylor, John E.	Philadelphia,	Cholera Infantum.
Taylor, Lyttleton L.	Florida,	Puerperal Peritonitis.
Taylor, James McDowell	Virginia,	Pathology of Cellular Tissues.
Tuggle, Richard B.	Virginia,	Menstruation.
Tull, John G.	North Carolina,	Amenorrhoea.
Trevor, M. Randall	Pennsylvania,	Menstruation.
Vedder, Alexander M.	New York,	History of the Epidemic Rubella, and as it prevailed at the Children's Asylum of Philadelphia, in the summer of 1838.
Vinson, Daniel S.	Louisiana,	Causes of Inflammation.
Walker, John	Virginia,	Tracheitis.
Watkins, Clement C.	Virginia,	Intermittent Fever.
Wendel, James E.	Tennessee,	Blood-letting as a Therapeutic Agent.
Whaland, Thomas H.	Maryland,	Phthisis Pulmonalis.
Williams, Robert D.	North Carolina,	Tetanus.
Wilkinson, Joseph B.	Louisiana,	Anatomy of and operation for Inguinal Hernia.
Wood, John P.	Virginia,	Asthma.
Wood, Thomas	Ohio,	Hydrated Peroxide of Iron.
Yohs, Andrew	Pennsylvania,	Aneurism.

At the Collegiate Commencement, held July 13th, 1838, the following gentlemen also received the Degree of Doctor of Medicine.

George F. Boisseau,	Virginia,	Acute Gastritis.
Charles R. Dodson,	North Carolina,	Acute Peritonitis.
Augustus C. Evans,	North Carolina,	Acute Dysentery.
Charles Foulke,	Pennsylvania,	Belladonna in Pertussis.
Thomas Glaskin,	Virginia,	Vitæ Mod. Naturæ.
Amos W. Griffiths,	Pennsylvania,	Intermittent Fever.
John Hiner,	Maryland,	Acute Hepatitis.
Robert M. McClure,	Indiana,	Intermittent Fever.
Charles J. Pleasants,	Virginia,	Rubeola.
Thomas Mawney Potter,	Rhode Island,	Rubeola.
John Howard Smith,	Pennsylvania,	Ligature of the Aorta.
John A. Smith,	Tennessee,	Menstruation.

Total, 158.

W. E. HORNER, M. D.

Dean of the Medical Faculty.

TO THE MEDICAL FACULTY.

THE subscriber having for many years prepared several valuable extracts, which have received the approbation, and been extensively used by the most eminent physicians in various parts of the United States, deems it his duty to caution the public against an attempt now making to impose on them an article prepared by a certain John Hughes, who alleges that he for several years prepared the articles while in the employ of the subscriber. The assertion is utterly untrue, as the said Hughes was employed merely as a porter and labourer about the store. The bottles, directions, and wrappers are imitations of those used by the subscriber, and impudently pretends that the signature of John Hughes is as true a test of the genuineness of the preparation as his own. Frequent attempts have been made by others to imitate articles prepared by the subscriber, which he has invariably treated with contempt; but the present one is so shameless that he deems it his duty to those who have used and relied on the excellence of his preparations to expose the imposture; and he further apprises them that it is his intention to institute legal proceedings against all concerned in the measure.

GEO. W. CARPENTER, 301 Market St. Philadelphia.

GEO. W. CARPENTER'S

Precipitated Extract of Bark, fully equal to the Sulphate of Quinine in the same Doses,
At One Dollar Per Ounce.

In the November Number for 1838 of this Journal, at page 367, I gave a detailed description of the above Extract. Since then I have received a number of letters from distinguished physicians in various parts of the United States. I have selected a couple from the number received, a copy of which I beg leave to annex.

Extract of a Letter from Dr. A. W. Washburn of Manchester, Mississippi.

Manchester, Miss. January 21, 1839.

DEAR SIR:—I am sorry to find that so valuable an article as the Sulphate of Quinine has become so scarce, but am satisfied that your precipitated Extract of Bark will supply the desideratum occasioned by its deficiency. I confess I should not like to do without Quinine altogether, as there are some cases of disease attended with such extreme irritability of the stomach as to make it from the minuteness of the dose, more eligible than any other tonic of the same class.

I have used your Precipitated Extract of Bark, and found it equal if not superior to the Sulphate of Quinine in intermittents. Indeed I can say of this Extract of Bark, what I cannot of Quinine, viz: that I have never failed with it to effect a cure of intermittent fever where it was eligible.

I remain, with respect, yours,

To MR. GEO. W. CARPENTER.

A. W. WASHBURN.

Extract of a Letter from Dr. Alexr. H. Innes.

Claysville, Kentucky, February 20, 1839.

DEAR SIR:—I avail myself of this opportunity of communicating to you the effect of your Precipitated Extract of Bark in the treatment of intermittent fever. I used eight ounces of it in my practice last fall, and found it the most efficient article in the treatment of intermittent fever (Quinine not excepted) that I have ever been able to procure, nineteen-twentieths of the cases yielded to it in twenty-four hours, and not a solitary case resisted the use of it for forty-eight hours. It was not attended with one of the unpleasant symptoms attendant on Quinine in large doses.

My mode of using it was as follows: after cleansing the stomach and evacuating the bowels to begin six hours before the next paroxysm was anticipated, and give a six grain pill every two hours until the time had passed for the paroxysm.

For children I prepared the use of the Extract in brandy or proof spirits, in reduced quantities, say four grains dissolved in four teaspoonfuls of brandy, and one teaspoonful every two hours, as with the pills in adults.

Respectfully yours,

To MR. GEO. W. CARPENTER.

ALEXR. H. INNES.

Extract of a Letter from Dr. R. Genley.

Saline, Waukegan Co. Michigan.

DEAR SIR:—The Precipitated Extract of Bark which I had of you direct was always good, and answered the same purpose to me as the Quinine. The last which I bought however was in New York, through the agency of a friend, who purchased it of a druggist there, and it was a spurious article and worthless; an ordinary dose of it would nauseate the stomach without any other sensible effect. Please send me fifty ounces of your Extract to care of Silas Cook & Son, New York. I think I can introduce it into extensive use here, and if I can, shall be happy to do so for your benefit, and for the benefit of the sick. You would be surprised at the amount of Quinine required here. To do justice to Michigan diseases, in a practice of three thousand dollars per annum, thirty or forty bottles are as little as can be used; fifty or sixty might be to advantage. Your Precipitated Extract will be a great advantage to us.

Yours truly,

To MR. GEO. W. CARPENTER.

ROYAL GENLEY.

MEDICINE CHESTS.

Medicine Chests should be made of different sizes, and the contents so proportioned as to suit the sizes of families and the number of domestics. Another consideration should be kept in view; whether residing in the city where a chest can, in a short time be replenished, or whether in the country where such facility does not exist, and where of course a larger chest would be required, and the quantity as well as the number of articles should necessarily be increased.

In order to have chests adapted to all the various conditions of life, I have put up five sizes of chests of particular description and construction, and denominated them Carpenters' Medicine Chests, varying in numbers from 1 to 5, so as to distinguish them and properly to characterize them according to the numbers—thus: No. 1 is adapted for a family residing in the city. No. 2 for a large family in the city or a small family in the country. No. 3 for a large family at a considerable distance in the country, or for a plantation where a large number of domestics are employed. No. 4 for a practicing physician, containing a full assortment of medicines, &c. No. 5, for sea, suitable for large vessels and packet ships. These chests will be all filled with fresh and choice medicines, in ground stoppered heavy flint glass bottles, of various sizes, neatly labelled in gold, and which will be put at a very moderate price. The following are descriptions of each chest.

Carpenter's Medicine Chest, No. 1:

Adapted for a family residing in the city.

This is a neat Mahogany case, finely finished with brass mountings, lock and key, handles, &c., and forms a neat and appropriate piece of parlor furniture. On opening the lid the following bottles are displayed:—

4, Four ounce salt mouth bottles; 5, two ounce Tincture bottles; 4, one ounce salt mouth bottles; 8, one ounce Tincture bottles, under which is a drawer which contains the following articles: 4, two ounce Fancy Porcelain Jars.

Also in which are neat separate divisions made for, and containing the following articles:—1 Pair of Scales and Weights; Graduated Glass measure; Small Spatula; Small Glass mortar and pestle; Small Glass Cup to take doses of medicine from; Carpenter's Medicine Chest Dispensatory, containing a full description of all the Medicines, and a concise description of the treatment of the diseases.

This chest will cost from \$20 to \$30, according to the finish, and the variation of the cost between bottles labelled in gold or in the ordinary manner, and whether also of cut glass or plain.

Carpenter's Medicine Chest, No. 2:

Adapted for a large family in the city or a small family in the country.

This is also a neat Mahogany Chest, handsomely finished, with brass mountings, lock and key, handles, &c. On opening the lid the following articles are displayed:—

5, Four ounce salt mouth bottles; 7, two ounce salt mouth bottles; 5, four ounce Tincture bottles; 7, two ounce Tincture bottles; 8, one ounce salt mouth bottles; under which is a drawer containing the following articles: 4, four ounce Covered Porcelain Jars; 4 Tin Canisters, with lids.

Also, neat and appropriate divisions, containing 1 pair of Scales and Weights; Graduated Glass Measure; Small Glass Mortar and Pestle; Spatula; Small Glass Measure Cup; 1 Copy Carpenter's Medicine Chest Dispensatory.

This chest will cost from \$30 to \$35.

Carpenter's Medicine Chest, No. 3:

For a large family residing at a considerable distance in the country or for a plantation where a large number of domestics are employed.

This being a larger chest, is generally made of pine, poplar, or cherry, neatly stained and varnished, or can be made of mahogany, if desired, at a few dollars more expense. On opening the lid the following bottles are displayed:—

6, Eight ounce Tincture bottles; 7, four ounce Tincture bottles; 10 two ounce Tincture bottles; 6, eight ounce salt mouth bottles; 7, four ounce salt mouth bottles; under which is a drawer containing the following articles; 4, half ounce salt mouth bottles; 6, four ounce canopy Porcelain Jars; 6, Tin Canisters.

Neat and appropriate divisions, containing Scales and Weights; Spatula; Graduated Glass Measure; Glass Mortar and Pestle; Glass Cup; Carpenter's Medicine Chest Dispensatory.

This chest will cost from \$35 to \$40.

Carpenter's Medicine Chest, No. 4:

Adapted for a practising Physician in the country.

This being a large chest, is generally made of pine, poplar, or cherry, neatly stained and varnished, or can be made of mahogany, if desired, at a few dollars additional expense.

This chest contains a neat and general assortment of medicines for a Practising Physician, and will be found a highly useful article.

On opening the lid, the following articles are displayed at one glance:—

7, Twelve ounce Tincture bottles, containing Ol. Ricini, Sp. Æth. Nit., Syr. Scillæ, Sp. Camphoræ, Mel. Scillæ Com., Tinct. Cinchon. Com., Syr. Rhei ar.

8, Eight ounce Tincture bottles, containing Ess. Menth. Pip., Tr. Opii, Tr. Opii Cam., Vin. Antimon., Sp. Cornu. Cervi, Sol. Quinæ, Sp. Lavend. Com., Æther Sulph.

9, Four ounce Tincture bottles, containing Bals. Copavia, Sp. Æther. Sol. Com., Tr. Benzoïn Com., Tr. Guaiac, Tr. Assafœtid., Tr. Myrrhæ, Tr. Sapon. Com., Tr. Gentian. Com., Aqua Plumbi

12, Two ounce Tincture bottles, containing, Tinct. Digitalis, Acet. Opii, Sp. Ammon. Ar., Vin. Rad. Colehic., Tr. Opii. Naroot. Depr., Acid. S. Arom., Tr. Meloe Vesic., Tr. Kino, Tr. Cubebæ, Tr. Iodin., Tr. Rhei, Tr. Valerianæ.

14, One ounce Tincture bottles, containing Ol. Anisi, Ol. Carui, Ol. Cinnamon., Ol. Caryophil., Ol. Copaiva., Ol. Cubebæ, Ol. Juniper, Ol. Lavindul. Ol. Limonis, Ol. Menth. Pip., Ol. Sassafras, Ol. Santonic., Ol. Terebinth., Ol. Sabinæ.

14, One ounce salt mouth bottles, containing, Iodine, Potass. Hydriod., Hydrar. Chlor., Opii Pulv., Pulv. Antimonialia, Fol. Digitalis Pulv., Pulv. Nit. Potas., Caryophil. Pulv., Zinci Sulph., Cupri Sulph., Pulv. Gallar., Argent. Nitrat., Ferri Sulph., Scelæ Cornut.

15, Quarter ounce salt mouth bottles, containing Acet. Morphine, Sulph. Morphine, Piperine, Strychnine, Acid. Prussic, Veratrine, Kreosote, Ol. Croton., Elatine, Proto-Iodur. Mercury, Deuto do., Iodide of Lead, Lupuline; Ol. Cantharid., Ol. pip. Nig.

7, Twelve ounce salt mouth bottles, containing Magnes. Usta, Pulv. Cinchon. Potas. Bitart., Sulph. Subl., Pulv. Jalapæ, Pulv. Rhei., P. Sal. Rochel.

8, Eight ounce salt mouth bottles, containing Pulv. Aloes, Ipecac. pulv., Sodæ Bicarb., Acid Tartaric., Creta. ppt., Ammon. Carb., Potas. Carb., Pulv. Zinjib.

9, Four ounce salt mouth bottles, containing Acaciæ, pulv., Sodæ Subbor., Hyd. Sub. Mur., Quinæ Sulph., Colocynth pulv., Camphora, Scillæ, pulv., Spigeliæ, pulv., Serpentariæ pulv.

Under which is a drawer containing the following:—

6, Eight-ounce canopy top jars, containing Unguent. Hydrarg., Unguent. Ros. Flav., Cerat. Simp., Ung. Cantharides, Mass. Hydrarg., Ung. Hyd. Nit.

6, Tin canisters, containing Fol. Sennæ, Manna, Magnesiæ Sulph., Linteam, Emplast. Adhes. Acaciæ Gum.

Also, neat and appropriate divisions, containing Scales and Weights, Spatulas—2 sizes; Glass Mortar and pestle; Wedgwood mortar and pestle; Graduated Glass Measure; Carpenter's Medicine Chest Dispensatory.

The above chest will cost from 90 to 100 dollars.

Chest No. 4, intended for Physicians is also made of a very small size suitable for carrying out in a gig or sulky; the most prominent and important articles are put up in small quantities, sufficient for each day's practice. The bottles are neatly put up and handsomely labelled, price 15 to 20 dollars, according to finish.

Carpenter's Medicine Chest, No. 5:

For Sea Voyage.

The above chest is intended for a ship; the size can be proportioned and varied to suit the vessel, length of voyage, &c.

This being a large chest, is generally made of pine, poplar or cherry, neatly stained and varnished, with lock and key, brass handles, &c.; it can also be made of mahogany if desired, at a few dollars more expense.

On opening the lid, the following articles are displayed, viz:—

7, Twelve ounce Tincture bottles; 8, Eight ounce Tincture bottles; 8, Eight ounce salt mouth bottles; 6, Four ounce salt mouth bottles; 6, Pint ointment Jars; 4, Two ounce salt mouths.

Under which is a drawer containing 10, Tin canisters.

Sundry articles—2 Lancets; 1 pint Syringe; 2 Bougies; 2 Catheters; Scales and Weights; Composition Mortar and Pestle; Glass Mortar and Pestle; Graduated Measure; Penis Syringe, 3; Spatulas—2 sizes; Carpenter's Medicine Chest Dispensatory.

The prices affixed to the different chests above described include medicines. The bottles and jars in each will be filled with fresh medicines of the best quality.

GEO. W. CARPENTER,
301 Market Street, Philada.

MEDICAL CONVENTION.

In obedience to a resolution of the Medical Convention of the United States, assembled in Washington City in January, 1830, public notice is hereby given, that a similar Convention will meet at the National Hotel, in the said city, on the first Wednesday of January, 1840, for the purpose of revising the Pharmacopœia of the United States.

Each incorporated State Medical Society, incorporated Medical College, and incorporated College of Physicians and Surgeons, is requested to elect a number of delegates, not exceeding three, to attend the said Convention. The several incorporated bodies mentioned are also requested to submit the Pharmacopœia to a careful revision, and to transmit the result of their labours, through their delegates, or through any other channel, to the next Convention. They are further requested to transmit to the undersigned the names and residence of their respective delegates, so soon as they shall be appointed, so that a list of them may be published, for the information of the Medical public, in the month of October next.

By order of the Medical Convention, assembled at Washington, in January, 1830.

LEWIS CONDICT, M. D., *President.*

Morristown, New Jersey, April 6, 1839.

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tion of references, and has thereby not only added very considerably to the value of his work, but has shown an extent of reading which, we confess, we were not prepared by his former edition to expect. He has also availed himself of the additional materials supplied by the works that have been published in the interval, especially those of Müller and Bardach. So that as a collection of details on human physiology alone, we do not think that it is surpassed by any work in our language: and we can recommend it to students in this country (England) as containing much with which they will not be likely to meet elsewhere."—*British and Foreign Medical Review*, for Jan. 1838.

"This work exhibits another admirable specimen of American industry and talent, and contains an account of every discovery in Europe up to the period of a few months prior to its publication. Many of the author's views are original and important."—*Dublin Journal of Medical Sciences*, for March, 1839.

ELEMENTS OF HYGIENE:

*On the Influence of Atmosphere and Locality; Change of Air and Climate, Seasons, Food, Clothing, Bathing, Sleep, Corporeal and Intellectual Pursuits, &c.
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"We can recommend this work to the public with the utmost confidence, as one of the best treatises on the subject we possess."—*American Journal of the Medical Sciences*, February, 1835.

"It is a book, therefore, interesting to the general reader; and, however popular and useful may have been the unrivalled work of Dr. Dewees on Children, we hazard little in predicting that this work will be still more extensively sought and read."—*Boston Medical Magazine*.

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importance, and among others, on the moral duties and professional conduct of the medical practitioner, which are laid down clearly and forcibly, and with a just appreciation of the dignity of the office.

"We recommend 'The Medical Student' in the strongest terms to his brethren in all countries, and in an especial manner to his compatriots."—*British and Foreign Medical Review*, for October, 1837.

"This is a useful guide-book for students, containing information which those who are about to commence the study of Medicine ought to possess."—*American Journal of the Medical Sciences*, November, 1837, page 276.

GENERAL THERAPEUTICS:

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"We hope to be able to give such an account of the work as will strengthen the desire and determination of our readers to seek for a farther acquaintance with it, by a candid perusal of the volume itself. And, in so doing, we offer them an assurance that they will be amply rewarded for their time and labour."—*Transylvania Journal*, Vol. IX, No. 3. December, 1836.

"Few writers in our profession have been more industrious than Professor Dunglison, and fewer still have sustained themselves equally well in the course of so many practical publications. From the hasty perusal which we have given it, we are inclined to think that it possesses equal if not superior merit to any which have preceded it from the prolific pen of its author.

"It shows the learning and research of its author on every page, and as an eclectic production it will bear comparison with similar works in any country. We would advise our readers to purchase and peruse it for themselves."—*Western Journal of the Medical Sciences*, No. XXXVIII, page 259, for September, 1836.

"The work ought not to be thus hastily dismissed. From an attentive examination less cannot in justice be said than that, while we find nothing to excite a single captious feeling, we find every thing to instruct and entertain. Although Dr. Dunglison may be regarded as a prolific writer, if he produces always such volumes as this, we shall certainly not think him in danger of the charge of overworking his genius. We must leave it with the candid advice to every medical man to be soon in possession of this volume of sound and rich observations in the art he would advance with pleasure, as well as practise as a duty."—*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*.

MEDICINE.

THE PRACTICE OF PHYSIC. By W. P. DEWEES, M. D. Adjunct Professor of Midwifery, in the University of Pennsylvania. 2d edition, complete in 1 vol. 8vo.

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THE ANATOMY, PHYSIOLOGY, AND DISEASES OF THE TEETH. By THOMAS BELL, F.R.S., F.L.S. &c. In 1 vol. 8vo. With Plate.

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* * This new edition has been arranged with special reference to the recent Pharmacopoeia, published in Philadelphia and New-York.

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A TREATISE ON PULMONARY CONSUMPTION, comprehending an Inquiry into the Cause, Nature, Prevention, and Treatment of Tuberculous and Scrofulous Diseases in general. By JAMES CLARK, M. D., F. R. S. &c. In 1 vol. 8vo.

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QUARTERLY MEDICAL ADVERTISER.

IN consequence of the extended circulation of the **AMERICAN JOURNAL OF THE MEDICAL SCIENCES**, the Proprietors intend, in compliance with the wishes of many of their friends, to prefix to each No. a Sheet of Advertisements. All Booksellers, Medical Gentlemen, and others desirous of taking advantage of this mode of announcement, will please address their Advertisements to **LEA & BLANCHARD**, Philadelphia, by the 10th day of the month preceding that of the publication of the Journal, viz: on 10th July, 10th October, 10th January, and 10th April.

For one page,	-	-	-	-	-	-	Six dollars.
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MEDICAL CONVENTION.

IN obedience to a resolution of the Medical Convention of the United States, assembled in Washington City in January, 1830, public notice is hereby given, that a similar Convention will meet at the National Hotel, in the said city, on the first Wednesday of January, 1840, for the purpose of revising the Pharmacopœia of the United States.

Each incorporated State Medical Society, incorporated Medical College, and incorporated College of Physicians and Surgeons, is requested to elect a number of delegates, not exceeding three, to attend the said Convention. The several incorporated bodies mentioned are also requested to submit the Pharmacopœia to a careful revision, and to transmit the result of their labours, through their delegates, or through any other channel, to the next Convention. They are further requested to transmit to the undersigned the names and residence of their respective delegates, so soon as they shall be appointed, so that a list of them may be published, for the information of the Medical public, in the month of October next.

By order of the Medical Convention, assembled at Washington, in January, 1830.

LEWIS CONDUCT, M. D., President.

Morristown, New Jersey, April 6, 1839.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

THE Lectures commence annually on the first Monday of November, and continue until the ensuing March.

Theory and Practice of Medicine,
Institutes of Medicine,
Special and General Anatomy,
Materia Medica and Pharmacy,
Chemistry,
Surgery,
Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and
Children,

By NATHANIEL CHAPMAN, M. D.
 By SAMUEL JACKSON, M. D.
 By WILLIAM E. HORNER, M. D.
 By GEORGE B. WOOD, M. D.
 By ROBERT HARE, M. D.
 By WILLIAM GIBSON, M. D.
 By HUGH L. HODGE, M. D.

Clinical Medicine and Surgery taught by the prescribing Medical Officers at the Blockley Hospital, under the Guardians of the poor, and at the Pennsylvania Hospital.

W. E. HORNER, M. D.
Dean of the Medical Faculty.

JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE PHILADELPHIA.

SESSION OF 1839-40.

The regular Lectures will commence on the first Monday of November. The following are the Professors in the order of their appointment.

JACOB GREEN, M. D.,	<i>Professor of Chemistry.</i>
SAMUEL M'CLELLAN, M. D.,	<i>Professor of Midwifery and Diseases of Women and Children.</i>
GRANVILLE S. PATTISON, M. D.,	<i>Professor of Anatomy.</i>
JOHN REVERE, M. D.,	<i>Professor of the Principles and Practice of Physic.</i>
ROBLEY DUNGLISON, M. D.,	<i>Professor of Institutes of Medicine and Medical Jurisprudence.</i>
ROBERT M. HUSTON, M. D.,	<i>Professor of Materia Medica and Pharmacy.</i>
JOSEPH PANCOAST, M. D.,	<i>Professor of Principles and Practice of Surgery.</i>

On and after the first of October, the Dissecting rooms will be kept open, and the Professor of Anatomy will give his personal attendance thereto. Lectures will likewise be delivered regularly during the month on the various branches, and opportunities for Clinical Instruction will be afforded at the Philadelphia Hospital under the Professor of Institutes of Medicine and at the Dispensary of the College under the Professors of Physic and of Surgery.

Fee for each Professor for the whole course, \$15.

Graduation Fee, \$30.

JOHN REVERE, M. D.
Dean of the Faculty.

MEDICAL COLLEGE OF THE STATE OF S. CAROLINA.

The annual course of Lectures of the Medical College of the State of South Carolina, will commence on the second Monday of November.

J. EDWARDS HOLBROOK, M. D.,	<i>Professor of Anatomy.</i>
JOHN WAGNER, M. D.,	<i>Professor of Surgery.</i>
S. HENRY DICKSON, M. D.,	<i>Professor of Institutes and Practice of Medicine.</i>
JAMES MOULTRIE, M. D.,	<i>Professor of Physiology.</i>
THOMAS G. PRIOLEAU, M. D.,	<i>Professor of Obstetrics.</i>
C. M. SHEPARD, M. D.,	<i>Professor of Chemistry.</i>
HENRY R. FROST, M. D.,	<i>Professor of Materia Medica.</i>
E. GEDDINGS, M. D.,	<i>Professor of Pathological Anatomy and Medical Jurisprudence.</i>
F. WURDEMAN, M. D.,	<i>Demonstrator of Anatomy.</i>
JAMES MOULTRIE, M. D., <i>Dean of the Faculty.</i>	

UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF NEW YORK.

The Lectures in this Institution will commence on the first Monday of November, and continue for four months.

J. AUGUSTINE SMITH, M. D.,	<i>Professor of Physiology.</i>
JOSEPH M. SMITH, M. D.,	<i>Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic and Clinical Medicine.</i>
JOHN B. BECK, M. D.,	<i>Professor of Materia Medica and Medical Jurisprudence.</i>
JOHN TORREY, M. D.,	<i>Professor of Chemistry and Botany.</i>
ROBERT WATTS, JR. M. D.,	<i>Professor of Special and General Anatomy.</i>
WILLARD PARKER, M. D.,	<i>Lecturer on Surgery and Surgical and Pathological Anatomy.</i>
JAMES R. MANLEY, M. D.,	<i>Lecturer on Obstetrics and the Diseases of Women and Children.</i>

The expence of attending a course of Lectures by all the Professors is \$108.

J. AUGUSTINE SMITH, M. D., *President.*
NICOLL H. DERING, M. D., *Registrar.*

New York, July 1, 1839.

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS

OF THE

WESTERN DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK,

(Fairfield Herkimer County.)

The Lectures commence on the 1st Monday of October, and continue sixteen weeks.

Anatomy and Physiology,

By JAMES McNAUGHTON, M. D.

Chemistry and Pharmacy,

By JAMES HADLEY, M. D.

Materia Medica and Medical Jurisprudence,

By T. ROMEYN BECK, M. D.

Practice of Physic and Obstetrics,

By JOHN DELAMATER, M. D.

Surgery,

By FRANK H. HAMILTON, M. D.

Fees for the whole course, \$56.

JAMES HADLEY, M. D.

Registrar.

MEDICAL INSTITUTION OF YALE COLLEGE.

The Lectures in this Institution will commence on Thursday, October 3, 1839, and continue sixteen weeks.

BENJAMIN SILLIMAN, M. D., L. L. D.,

} Professor of Chemistry, Pharmacy, Mineralogy and Geology.

ELI IVER, M. D.,

} Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic.

WILLIAM TULLY, M. D.,

} Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics.

JONATHAN KNIGHT, M. D.,

} Professor of the Principles and Practice of Surgery.

TIMOTHY P. BEERS, M. D.,

} Professor of Obstetrics.

CHARLES HOOKER, M. D.,

} Professor of Anatomy and Physiology.

The Fees, which are required in advance, are \$12.50, for each course, except that on Obstetrics, which is \$6. The Matriculation fee is \$5, and the contingent bill for the course on Chemistry \$2.50. The expense of a full course therefore is \$76. The graduation fee is \$15.

CHARLES HOOKER, M. D.

Secretary.

CINCINNATI COLLEGE.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

THE Lectures commence annually on the last Monday of October, and continue until the commencement, or time of conferring the degrees.

Anatomy Special and Surgical,

By J. N. M'DOWELL, M. D.

General and Pathological Anatomy, and Physiology,

By S. D. GROSS, M. D.

Surgery,

By WILLARD PARKER, M. D.

Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children,

By L. C. RIVES, M. D.

Chemistry and Medical Jurisprudence,

By JAMES B. ROGERS, M. D.

Materia Medica and Pharmacy,

By JOHN P. HARRISON, M. D.

Theory and Practice of Medicine,

By DANIEL DRAKE, M. D.

Demonstrator of Anatomy,

By CAREY A. TRIMBLE, M. D.

By a Recent law of the Ohio Legislature Students of Medicine of this School are admitted to attend the wards of the Commercial Hospital and Lunatic Asylum in this city upon the same terms as those of the Ohio Medical College.

JOHN P. HARRISON, M. D.

Dean of Medical Faculty.

ANNUAL CIRCULAR

OF THE

MEDICAL COLLEGE OF LOUISIANA,

FOR 1839-40.

FACULTY.

JOHN HARRISON, M. D., *Professor of Physiology and Pathology.*EDWARD H. BARTON, M. D., *Professor of Materia Medica, Therapeutics and Hygiene.*JAMES JONES, M. D., *Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine.*J. L. RIDDELL, M. D., *Professor of Chemistry and Pharmacy.*WARREN STONE, M. D., *Professor of Surgery.*G. A. NOTT, M. D., *Professor of Anatomy.*A. H. CENAS, M. D., *Professor of Obstetrics and the Diseases of Women and Children.*G. W. MORGAN, M. D., *Demonstrator of Anatomy.*

The Session will open at the Charity Hospital, on Common Street, on the first Monday in December, and close on the fourth Saturday in March. The commencement for conferring Degrees will be held on the Wednesday following the close of the Lectures.

E. H. BARTON, M. D., *Dean.*

New Orleans, May, 1839.

At the Annual meeting of the Physico-Medical Society of New Orleans, the following Members were duly elected officers for the year, viz:

G. H. BARTON, M. D.,

President.

G. W. CAMPBELL, M. D.,

} *Vice-Presidents.*

J. M. W. PICTON, M. D.,

J. S. SNOWDEN, M. D.,

Corresponding Secretary.

G. BETTEUR, M. D.,

Recording Secretary.

T. O. MENZ, M. D.,

Treasurer.

T. HUNT, M. D.,

Curator.

ALBANY MEDICAL COLLEGE.

This institution received its charter from the legislature of the state during the past winter, and commenced operations with a class of sixty five students; thirteen of whom received the degree of DOCTOR IN MEDICINE at the close of the session.

The College Edifice and its accommodations: the Museum, Theatre, Dissecting Rooms, and Laboratory, are all on a scale of magnitude and excellence, equal it is believed, to any similar institution in the country.

Choice and extensive collections of Anatomical Specimens and morbid preparations; with cabinets of Materia Medica, Botany, Mineralogy, Geology and Zoology, together with Casts, Plates, Drawings, Models, Instruments and apparatus for illustrating the different departments of study, have all been provided and arranged in the Museum of the College, which will be open for the inspection of students during the lecture term.

The ensuing Session will commence on Tuesday, October 1st. 1839, and continue sixteen weeks.

The faculty consists of the following gentlemen.

ALDEN MARCH, M. D., *PRESIDENT, and Professor of Surgery.*EBENEZER EMMONS, M. D., *Professor of Chemistry.*DAVID M. REESE, M. D., *Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine.*JAMES H. ARMSBY, M. D., *Professor of Anatomy.*DAVID M. M'LACHLAN, M. D., *Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics.*GUNNING S. BEDFORD, M. D., *Professor of Obstetrics.*THOMAS HUN, M. D., *Professor of the Institutes of Medicine.*AMOS DEAN Esq., *Professor of Medical Jurisprudence.*

The fee for all the courses is \$70. Matriculation fee \$5. Graduation fee \$20. Price of boarding from \$2.50 to \$3.50 per week.

For further particulars inquire of either of the Faculty, or of

JAMES H. ARMSBY, M. D.,

Registrar.

Albany, July, 1839.

W. MUNN'S ELIXIR OF OPIUM.

CIRCULAR TO PHYSICIANS.

New York, March 1, 1839.

DEAR SIR:—I beg leave to solicit your favour and patronage to my ELIXIR OF OPIUM, a new chemical preparation, which I have invented, containing all the valuable medicinal principles of Opium, to the exclusion of those which are deleterious and useless, and which, I feel assured, will be found worthy of your kind attention.

It is a well ascertained fact, that Opium, in its natural state, is not a simple substance, but is found, by chemical analysis, to contain the Meconate of Morphia, Codein, and Narcein, which are valuable elements; and Narcotine, Gum, Resin, Feculent Matter, &c., which are noxious principles; and full proportions of the greatest number of which are contained in Laudanum, Paregoric, Black Drop, Denarcotized Laudanum, and such other opiate preparations of this class hitherto made, and to which are justly attributed those disagreeable effects upon the stomach and nervous system, which so frequently follow their operation and limit their usefulness.

This ELIXIR OF OPIUM retains only the Morphia, Codein, and Narcein, and these in combination with its native Meconic Acid; in consequence of this, and the undecomposed combination of all these, its remaining principles, it produces the characteristic effects of the Opium more distinctly than any of the artificial compounds of Morphia; fully confirming the fact, that the more undecomposed and unchanged we keep the native elements of substances in pharmaceutical preparations, the more characteristic will be their therapeutic effects upon the animal system;—and intimately connected with this fact, is the circumstance of the absolute impossibility of restoring the original valuable qualities of vegetable substances, to the result of the artificial combination of their decomposed proximate principles.

And thus it is, after the native Meconate of Morphine has been decomposed by chemical process, that its natural proportions, so necessary and essential to the preservation of the identity and characteristic virtues of the native drug, are never maintained in an artificial combination. Its organic nature is so destroyed, and its strength so materially impaired by insolubility, that it is comparatively inert and useless.

It also demonstrates another fact, the importance of which will be obvious to all medical chemists, namely, the high superiority of the native acid of this preparation, to the artificial ones of those forms of Morphia hitherto used; for it is well known that the nature and power of Saline compounds materially depend upon their acidifying principle; as the difference between the Arseniates of Potash and Soda, and the Sulphates, Nitrates and Murates, of the same alkalis will exemplify.

Although the native Meconic Acid in an isolated state, may not appear to possess any medicinal activity or to exert any action upon the animal system, yet when combined, in a natural state, with Morphine, Codein, and Narcein, as in the Elixir of Opium, it acquires activity from them, and imparts virtue and power to them, of which neither the Acetic, Sulphuric, Muratic or any other Artificial Acid is capable, and their native combination and compound effects possess more proportionate energy, than either can individually, or with any artificial principle substituted for them; the difference in the nature and power of the artificial Salts of Morphine, shows a decided superiority of some of their Acids to others, namely, of the Acetic and Sulphuric to the Muratic, Nitric, Tartaric and Carbonic, and of the greater solubility of their Salts, and consequently superior power and preference; and those of the others being less soluble, are proportionably less active. It is impossible for the Morphine alone, and that in artificial combination, to fully represent and maintain in medical treatment all the physiological influences and medicinal virtues of so triumphant a remedy as Opium is, when so many of its other valuable properties are excluded.

That Codein and Narcein possess the characteristic and many of the essential virtues of the Opium, and that when associated in native combination with the Meconic Acid and Morphine, they confer much additional strength and impulse to a preparation, as they do in the Elixir of Opium, is undeniable.

The great discrepancy in the comparative strength between Morphine and the native drug, independent of insolubility, principally depends upon the exclusion of those principles, and accounts for the circumstance, why "one grain of Morphine produces no more effect than two grains of Turkey Opium, which do not contain more than a sixteenth part of the Alkali."

It possesses, also, a superior advantage to the Solutions of Morphia, (in addition to that of containing the Codein, Narcein and Meconic Acid, in a natural state of combination,) in its being of uniform strength, and not liable to decomposition and deterioration from those constant changes which the variable temperature, to which they are exposed, occasions; and thus is obviated a serious objection, which has prevented their being used with precision and safety.

The applicability of so highly improved a preparation as this *ELIXIR OF OPIUM*, to a wide range of human diseases, scarcely needs an illustration, since Opium itself, in some form or other, with all its objectionable elements, is considered almost indispensable in cases of constant occurrence.

To speak summarily, the *ELIXIR OF OPIUM* may be adopted in all cases in which either Opium or its preparations are administered, with the certainty of obtaining all their sedative, anodyne, and antispasmodic effects, without being followed by the disagreeable consequences of headache, nausea, vomiting, constipation, tremors, and a train of other unhappy symptoms, which are often as distressing as those which it was applied to remove.

Not is the prevention of these consecutive ill effects, the only important desideratum which recommends this valuable discovery to favourable notice. Its almost universal applicability in the treatment of the great number of diseases, in which other opiates are contra-indicated and inadmissible, in consequence of their stimulating and constipating effects, at once entitles it to universal adoption.

It possesses yet another important advantage, which is of paramount consideration in the treatment of some of the most violent and dangerous spasmodic diseases, such as Tetanus, Epilepsy, Hysteria, *Tic douloureux*, Convulsions in Hydrophobia, &c. &c., which is that the quantity necessary to overcome and control diseased action in those dreadful maladies, is not limited by the deleterious influence of those objectionable principles, but can be given in large quantities with safety, inasmuch as their proportions in Opium and its several preparations containing them, are so great, that by the time a sufficient quantity is taken, for the anodyne and antispasmodic properties to allay and overpower the pain and spasmodic action in some of their most violent attacks, the poisonous influence of the objectionable elements, will preponderate and produce narcotism, stupor, and apoplectic death; and the patient dies the victim of the poisonous effects of the intended remedy, before the valuable properties can give the desired relief.

Having used this preparation for some time in an extensive medical practice, and being fully satisfied of its value, I therefore take the liberty to submit it to the members of the Medical Profession, with full confidence that it will obtain the approbation of their judgment, and be eminently successful in their enlightened practice.

Your most obedient servant,

JOHN B. M'MUNN.

N. B. Full directions accompany each vial, and the signature of my name, in full, on the outside label.

TESTIMONIALS.

DR. JOHN B. M'MUNN having made known to me the process by which he prepares his "*ELIXIR OF OPIUM*," and wishing me to state my opinion concerning it, I therefore say, that the process is in accordance with well known chemical laws, and that the preparation must contain all the valuable principles of Opium, without those which are considered as deleterious and useless.

New York, December 29, 1836.

J. R. CHILTON, M. D.

Operative Chemist, &c.

DR. J. B. M'MUNN.

DEAR SIR:—I have made repeated trials of your "*ELIXIR OF OPIUM*" in the City and Marine Hospitals, and find it to possess the anodyne and sedative powers of the ordinary preparations of Opium, without producing the excitement, headache, nausea, and constipation, which in many cases render those preparations objectionable.

Its effects are more permanent and uniform than those of Morphia.

Yours, &c.

C. L. MITCHELL, M. D.

Resident Physician, New York Hospital.

New York, February 8th, 1837.

Bellevue, New York, February 19, 1839.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY, that Dr. J. B. M'Munn's ELIXIR OF OPIUM has been used in several cases, at the Bellevue Hospital, with the most satisfactory effects, when the usual preparations of Opium would have proved injurious.

The undersigned are fully convinced, that it possesses the sedative properties of the latter, without producing constipation of the bowels, or any unpleasant symptoms.

HENRY VAN HOEVENBERGH,

Resident Physician.

GEORGE F. ALLEN,

Assistant Physician.

Bellevue Hospital.

From DR. JAMES HERON, President of the Medical Society of Orange County, New York.

THIS CERTIFIES, that I have used of DR. M'MUNN'S ELIXIR OF OPIUM, and do find it to be preferable to Opium and its tinctures, in that it is not followed by the pain in the head, nausea, dry and bitter mouth, and constipation, so generally consequent upon the use of that drug. And I do relieve his preparation, at least, equally beneficial with the other combinations of Morphia.

JAMES HERON, Physician and Surgeon.

Warwick, October 17th, 1836.

The following from Ansel W. Ives, A. M.* speaks volumes.

IMPORTANT COMMUNICATION.—About ten months ago I was attacked with a very painful species of Neuralgia, [*Tic douloureux*,] affecting all the nerves of one of my hips and legs, which excepting occasional short intervals, has continued with unabated severity to the present time. As no remedy has ever seemed to produce the least permanent effect in the progress of the disease, I have been obliged to rely entirely on Opium to mitigate intolerable pain. I began by using the Black Drop, and afterwards the different preparations of Morphine, both by taking them into the stomach and by applying them to a blistered surface externally. By these preparations my digestive functions were almost entirely suspended, and my whole nervous system so disturbed, that my general health was suffering severely from the use of them. It was but a short time before I was taken ill, that Dr. M'Munn had left with me a specimen of his Elixir of Opium, with the request that I would make a trial of it in my practice. I had not used it enough, however, before my sickness, to form any opinion of its peculiar virtues, and I confess I was not predisposed to believe that it possessed any; but one of my medical attendants suggested the propriety of my using it, as all other preparations of Opium affected me so unfavorably. From that time to the present, a period of about eight months, I have taken but little less than 100 ounces of this medicine. As I can therefore speak with great confidence as to the effect of Dr. M'Munn's Elixir in my own case, it is not less an act of justice to him, than a duty to the profession, and to the cause of humanity, that I give a brief statement of its peculiar effects, and of its superiority in my own case over every other preparation of Opium.

In the first place, it has never impaired my appetite, nor weakened the powers of digestion, on the contrary, when taken in moderate quantities, that is, in doses from half a drachm to a drachm three or four times in twenty-four hours, it has seemed to

* Of Dr. Ives, it is sufficient to say, that he was an eminent physician in the city of New York, and is well known to the medical profession generally as a scientific medical chemist, whose name stands recorded in connection with *Lupuline* (the active principle of the Hop,) of which he was the discoverer. Medical science is also indebted to him for testing the qualities of other valuable medicines, and for their more general introduction into practice. And it may in fact, be said, that a more capable person could not have been selected to test the qualities of the Elixir of Opium than him, nor a more befitting disease for that purpose, than the one with which he was so sorely afflicted.

increase the digestive functions; and even though I have taken during the last fifteen days as many ounces of the Elixir, my appetite is still good. Secondly, it does not produce relaxation of the skin, and consequent perspiration as other preparations of Opium do. Thirdly, it uniformly increases the secretion of urine. Fourthly, unless taken in uncommonly large doses, it does not produce constipation of the bowels. Fifthly, although it has been equally efficient in relieving pain, it has in no instance caused headache, or sickness of stomach, or any of those symptoms of nervous irritability of the system which usually ensue from other preparations of Opium, after their primary influence has subsided. Without going into detail, such are the peculiarities of the "Modus Operandi" of Dr. M'Munn's Elixir in my own case. How far its action by future experience may be found to correspond with this on other constitutions I pretend not to say; but I think I shall be sanctioned by my medical attendants in adding, that my life has already been prolonged by the peculiar benefits derived from this medicine.

A. W. IVES, M. D.

New York, Dec. 14, 1837.

Having witnessed the effects of Dr. J. B. M'Munn's Elixir of Opium, we are of opinion that it is a valuable preparation, and recommend it to the patronage of the profession.

F. U. JOHNSTON, M. D.

President of the Medical Society of New York, and Physician to the City and Marine Hospital.

JOHN W. FRANCIS, M. D.

Late Prof. of Midwifery in the College of Phys. and Surgeons, N. Y.

JOHN C. CHEESEMAN, M. D.

Surgeon to the New York City Hospital.

RICHARD K. HOFFMAN, M. D.

Surgeon to the City Hospital, N. Y. and late Surgeon in the U. S. N.

JAMES WEBSTER, M. D.

Prof. of Anat. and Physiology in the Geneva Medical College, N. Y.

New York, Feb. 18, 1837.

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INDEX.

A

Abscess, hepatic, 192, 212.
 Accessory supra renal capsules, 190.
 Acetabulum, fracture of, 481.
 Adam on persesquinitrate of iron, 61.
 Addison on disorders of the brain connected with diseased kidney, 442.
 Albany Medical College, 523, 528.
 Albinos, 517.
 Amputation, spontaneous, of limbs of fœtus in utero, 522.
 Anchylosis of cervical vertebrae, 484.
 Anæsthesia, 433.
 Aneurism from anastomosis, Watson on, 24.
 ——— by anastomosis, cured by twisted suture, 495.
 ——— of innominate, 225.
 Angina pseudomembranacea, 73.
 Annan's report, 314.
 Antonini on sulphate of quinine in the form of ointment, for the cure of malignant intermittents, 445.
 Arnott's case of disease of lining membrane of tympanum, 491.
 Arsenic, poisoning with, successfully treated, 243.
 Artificial pupil in the scleroticæ, 163.
 Asthma, laryngeal, 205.
 Asylum for relief of insane at Frankford, account of, 13.

B

Baltimore alms house, report of cases in, 314.
 Bartlett's case of cerebral affection, 42, 522.
 Beck's valedictory address, 431.
 Belladonna plaster, 450.
 Bertolini and Bonacossa's statistics of royal insane hospital of Turin, 414.
 Billing's first principles of medicine, 145.
 Bird on manner in which carbonic acid produces death, 505.
 Births, greater number of still born in illegitimate than in legitimate, 251.
 Bischoff on transfusion of blood, 437.
 Bladder, irritable, 450.
 ——— paralysis of, 450.
 Blood, transfusion of, 437.
 ——— experiments on, 458.
 Brain, disease of, connected with disease of the kidneys, 442.
 Brieheteau on caustic issues in phthisis pulmonalis, 460.

Bronchocele cured by croton oil, 464.
 Buchanan on etiology of spontaneous amputation of limbs of fœtus in utero, 522.
 Burdach's case of cartilaginous condition of neck of uterus, 507.
 Burgess on spasm of the glottis, 205.
 Burne on phlegmasia dolens, 455.
 Burns and scalds, 481.

C

Calculus, statistics of, 508.
 Campbell's case of laryngitis and bronchocele, cured by croton oil, 462.
 Camphor, medical properties of, 198.
 Carbonic acid, effects of respiring, 244.
 ——— gas, manner in which it causes death, 505.
 Carpenter on malignant pustule, 259.
 Carson's address, 431.
 Carmichael on position of placenta in the womb, 242.
 Catoptric examination of eye, 255, 513.
 Caustic issues in phthisis pulmonalis, 460.
 Cerebral affection—double consciousness, 42, 522.
 Cervical vertebrae, anchylosis and dislocation of, 484.
 Chapman's introductory lecture, 184.
 ——— on diseases of the liver, 347.
 Child at birth of enormous size, 504.
 Cholera infantum, 301.
 Chronic diseases, 422.
 Churchill's outlines of the principal diseases of females, 394.
 Cincinnati College, 527.
 Club-foot, Garden's case of, 257.
 ———, Kraus on, 491.
 Coathupe on effects of respiring carbonic acid gas, 244.
 Coathupe's experiments on products of respiration at different periods of the day, 439.
 Coley's case of luxation of radius, 232.
 Connecticut Medical Society, 429.
 Convention for revising the Pharmacopœia, 527.
 Cooper on burns and scalds, 481.
 Copaiba, syrups of, 445.
 Corrigan on paralysis of first and second branches of the sensitive root of fifth pair nerves, 451.
 Condret on medical electricity 176.
 Cowan's vital statistics of Glasgow, 246.

Crompton on injury of eye by percussion-caps, 409.
Croton oil, remedial powers of, 445.
Cunier on hemeralopia, 242.

D

Darrach's report, relative to diseases of the eastern penitentiary, 179.
Davidson on hydrocele, 235.
—— case of malignant ulcer, 237.
—— causes and treatment of erysipelas, 238.
Davy's experiments on the blood, 438.
—— on fluid of vesicula seminalis, 187.
De Lux, on kresote, 201.
Deafness from disease of lining membrane of tympanum, 491.
Decidua, veins of uterine, 188.
Delivery, unconscious, 243.
Dental Science, American Journal of, 523.
De Roos's statistics of calculous diseases, 508.
Desault's apparatus for fractures, 235.
Dealandes on onanism, 426.
Dewille's case of poisoning with arsenic, 243.
Dezeimeris on revaccination, 252.
Dieffenbach on cure of wry neck, 228.
Diphtheritis, 73.
Dislocation of radius, 232.
—— of humerus, 236.
Droopy encysted of thyroid gland, 224.
Dujat on hydrocele, 231.
Dunglison's medical lexicon, 429.
Dannel's report of interments in New York, 423.
Durner on malformation of placenta, 436.

E

Electricity, medical, 176.
Emetics, efficacy of, in facial paralysis, 211.
Epilepsy, case of, 67.
Ergot, method of determining purity of, 196.
Erysipelas, causes and treatment of, 238.
—— raw cotton in, 490, 521.
Evans's account of asylum for relief of the insane at Frankford, 13.
Exostosis of pelvis of rapid growth, 191.
—— lower jaw, 516.
Eye, catoptric examination of, 235, 513.
——, recent works on diseases of, 427.
——, wound of, by percussion-cap, 281, 288, 492.

F

Fearn's case of aneurism of innominate, 225.
Fisher's edition of Laennec on diseases of the chest, 178.
Fistula, vesico-vaginal, 223.
Flint's address, 431.
Fricke's successful employment of immovable apparatus in fractures, 495.

G

Gallup's institutes of medicine reviewed, 375.
Garden's case of club-foot, 237.

Geddings on diphtheritis, 73.
Girardin on treatment of quinsy by scarifications, 459.
Glasgow, vital statistics of, 244.
Glaucoma, Mackenzie on, 240.
Glottis, spasm of, 205.
Graves's case of hepatic abscess, 192.
—— on neuralgia of testicle, 204.
—— method of preparing sinapisms, 204.
—— treatment of hypertrophy of tonsils, 205.
Griseom's case of abstraction of uterus after delivery, 518.
Gruhn's case of prolapsus of pregnant uterus, 207.
Guy's experiments on the pulse, 432.

H

Hall's case of unconscious delivery, 243.
Hamilton on treatment of scarlet fever, 475.
Hays on catoptric examination of eye, 255, 513.
—— report of cases treated in Will's hospital, 265.
—— case of dislocation and absorption of lens from wound of the eye by a grain of wheat, 513.
—— extraction of foreign body from the eye, 514.
Hayward's case of vesico-vaginal fistula, 223.
Heart diseases not seated in the heart, 222.
—— Wardrop on diseases of, 419.
Hæmorrhage, Stilling's new process for arresting, 172.
Hemeralopia, 242.
Hepatitis, 347.
Hepaticula, 365.
Heikler on emetics in facial paralysis, 211.
Heriot's hospital, scarlet fever in, 463.
Hilton on decussation of fibres at the junction of the medulla spinalis and m. oblongata, 437.
Hodgkin on mucous membranes, review of, 129.
Hulse's case of bite of spider on glans penis, 69.
Hufeland on varenties in form of vapour, 221.
—— on heart diseases, 222.
Humerus, dislocation of, 236.
Hydrocele, 231, 235.

I

Ileus, gastrotomy for, 223.
Iritis, sympathetic, 500.
Iron, tritoxide of, in poisoning with arsenic, 243.

J

Jackson on hepatic abscess, 212.
—— case of twin foetus, 256.
—— introductory lecture, 431.
Jorg on greater number of still-born in illegitimate than in legitimate births, 251.
Journal of the medical convention of Ohio, 429.

K

- Kermes mineral as an emetic and purgative, 195.
 Knee, fungus of, 425.
 Krauss on congenital club-foot, 491.
 Kresote, value of, as compared with other remedies, 201.

L

- Laennec on the chest, 178.
 Lafargue on phrenology, 168.
 Laryngitis cured by croton oil, 462.
 Lawrence's case of exostosis of pelvis, 191.
 ————— dislocation of humerus, 236.
 Lawson's report, 258.
 Laycock on belladonna plaster, 450.
 ————— on external application of colchicum in rheumatism, 450.
 ————— on lytta in vesical paralysis, 445.
 Lederle on fungus of the knee, 425.
 Lee on veins of uterine decidua, 182.
 ————— ophthalmic surgery, 427.
 ————— new vaccine virus, 522.
 Leg, deformity consequent on fracture, 334.
 Lendrick's case of fracture of acetabulum 481.
 Lindaly on cholera infantum, 301.
 Liston's practical surgery, 179.
 Liquor amnii, analysis of, 252.
 Liver, abscess of, 192, 212.
 ————— diseases of, 347.
 Logan on scarlatina, 71.
 Loxarthrus, Mutter on, 178.
 Lunatic paupers in England and Wales, 251.

M

- Maackenzie on glaucoma, 240.
 ————— sympathetic iritis, 500.
 MacLachlan's case of aneurism by anastomosis, 495.
 Magill on scarlet fever, 341.
 Malcolmson's case of ranula, 493.
 Malgaigne on fractures of the ribs, 485.
 Malignant pustule, 259.
 ————— intermittents, ointment of sulphate of quinine in, 445.
 Marcy's case of partial sweating, 66.
 ————— case of Albinos, 517.
 Massachusetts general hospital, 262.
 Medical Lexicon, 429.
 Medicine, first principles of, 155.
 Middlemore's treatise on diseases of the eye, 427.
 Miner's address, 431.
 Minutes of Medical Society of Tennessee, 429.
 Monod, gastrotomy for cure of ileus, 233.
 Morgan's lectures on diseases of the eye, 427.
 Mortality, periodical, of human race, 250.
 Mott's gleannings, 567.
 Mouchon's formulae for syrup of copaliba, 445.
 Mucous membranes, Hodgkin on, 129.
 Mutter on loxarthrus, 187.

N

- Narcotics in form of vapour, 221.
 Negro poisoning, 514.
 Neuralgia of the testicle, 204.
 New York, report of interments in, 423.
 ————— transactions of medical society of, 429.
 ————— Journal of Medicine and Surgery, 528.
 Norris's edition of Liston's surgery, 179.

O

- Oesophagus, cancer of, 58.
 Ohio, medical convention of, 490.
 Onanism, Dealandes on, 466.
 Ophthalmic report, Hays's, 265.
 Osborne on irritation of the stomach, 201.
 Osiander on puerperal fever, 447.
 ————— on inflammation of umbilical vein in infants, 461.
 Osteo-sarcoma of lower jaw, 260.
 Os uteri, obliteration of, 256.
 Owens's case of enormous fistula, 504.

P

- Parker on ulceration of stomach, 214, 215.
 Parry's operation for remedying deformity of the leg, resulting from a badly set fracture, 334.
 Pelvis, exostosis of, 191.
 Pereira's elements of materia medica, 412.
 Persequitrate of iron, remedial powers of, 61.
 Phillips on division of prostrate gland in lithotomy, 223.
 Phlegmasia dolens, 455.
 Phrenology, Lafargue on, 168.
 Phthisis pulmonalis, caustic issues in, 460.
 Physick, Randolph's memoir of, 93.
 ————— Placenta, position of, in the womb, 242.
 ————— malformation of, 426.
 Poisoning, Negro, 514.
 Porter's case of epilepsy, 67.
 Proceedings of Connecticut Medical Society, 429.
 Prostate gland, division of, in lithotomy, 224.
 Prussian bills of mortality, 506.
 Puerperal fever, 447.
 Pulse, Guy's experiments on, 432.

Q

- Quincy, treated by scarification, 459.

R

- Rainy on urea in the blood in cholera, 254.
 Randolph's memoir of Physick, 93.
 Ranula, 493.
 Raw cotton in erysipelas, 490, 521.
 Rees's analysis of liquor amnii, 252.
 Regnoli, extirpation of tongue, 232.
 Respiration, products of, at different periods of the day, 439.
 Revaccination, 252.

Reyaand on raw cotton in erysipelas, 400.
 Ribs, fractures of, 585.
 Robertson on treatment of erysipelas by raw cotton, 521.
 Rodriguez's case of exostosis of upper jaw, 516.
 Rogee's outlines of physiology and phrenology, 432.
 Roguet's course of ophthalmology, 437.
 Romberg's case of anesthesia, 433.

S

Scarlatina as it occurred in the orphan house, Charleston, 71.
 — in valley of Virginia, 341.
 — in Edinburgh, 463, 474, 475, 478.
 — prevalence and mortality of, in some public institutions in Edinburgh, 474.
 — angina, treatment of, 475.
 Sebastian on venous circle of mammary areola, 190.
 — on accessory supra renal capsules, 190.
 Selwyn on dropsy of thyroid gland, 224.
 Sewall's case of wound of eye by percussion-cap, 238.
 Sichel on ophthalmia, &c., 427.
 Sidey on scarlet fever, 478.
 Sigmond on medical properties of zinc, 196.
 — camphor, 198.

— on croton oil, 445.
 Silver spoon swallowed, discharged through an abscess in epigastrium, 195.
 Sinapisms, method of preparing, 304.
 Solon on albuminuria, reviewed, 404.
 Somervail on Negro poisoning, 514.
 Somnambulism, 185.
 Spider, bite of, on glans penis, 69.
 Stanley's case of dislocation and ankylosis of cervical vertebrae, 484.
 Stilling on artificial pupil, 163.
 — new process for arresting hæmorrhage, 172.
 Steber's manual of ophthalmology, 427.
 Stomach, wound of, 261.
 — perforation of, from morbid causes, 440.
 — irritation of, 301.
 — ulceration, 214, 215.
 Sudden death, Warren on, 294.
 Sulphate of quinine, ointment of, 445.
 Suringar on chronic diseases, 422.
 Sweating, partial, 66.
 Submaxillary gland, case in which it was extirpated, 493.
 Suetin's immoveable fracture apparatus, 495.
 Spontaneous amputation of limbs of fœtus in utero, 522.

T

Taylor on perforation of the stomach, 440.
 Telangiectasis, Watson on, 24.

Tennessee, medical society of, 429.
 Testicle, neuralgia of, 304.
 Thyroid gland, 224.
 Tongue, extirpation of, 232.
 Tonsils, hypertrophy of, 303, 523.
 Toulmouche on kermes mineral, 195.
 Transactions of the Medical Society of New York, 429.
 Trinchinetti on turpentine in diseases of the eye, 242.
 Turpentine in diseases of the eye, 242.
 Twin fœtus, one expelled prematurely, the other retained to full term, 256.
 Tympanum, diseases of lining membrane of, 491.

U

Ulcer, malignant, 237.
 Umbilical vein, inflammation of, 461.
 Urea in the blood in cholera, 251.
 Uterine decidua, veins of, 188.
 Uterus, manner in which it expands, 242.
 —, cartilaginous condition of neck of, 507.
 —, prolapse of, 507.
 —, abstraction of, after delivery, 518, 520.

V

Vaccine virus, new, 253, 522.
 —, memorial to congress to allow it to be conveyed by mail free, 523.
 Veins of uterine decidua, 188.
 Venous circle of the mammary areola, 190.
 Verdet's case of natural somnambulism, 185.
 Vesico-vaginal fistula, case of, 223.
 Vesiculae seminales, fluid of, 187.
 Virginia, University of, 527.

W

Wardrop on diseases of the heart, 419.
 Wardleworth's method of determining purity of ergot, 196.
 Warren's case of sudden death, 294.
 — on enlargement of tonsils, 523.
 Watson on telangiectasis, 24.
 Weber's case of closure of os uteri, 256.
 White's lunatic asylum, 262.
 Wills's hospital, report of cases treated in, 265.
 Wood on scarlet fever of Edinburgh, 463.
 Wort's case of osteo-sarcoma of lower jaw, 260.
 Wound of stomach, 261.
 Wry neck, cured by dividing sterno-cleido-mastoid muscle, 226.
 Wyman's case of cancer of œsophagus, 58.

Z

Zinc, medical properties of, 196.



41

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